

Tel Aviv mayor urges PLO talks

TEL AVIV (R) — The mayor of Tel Aviv has called for peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a week after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision to allow a cabinet minister to meet with the group. Shimon Peres, a former general who commanded Israeli forces in the Six Day War, said that Rabin would not meet with the PLO until it had renounced terrorism. Peres said that Rabin would not meet with the PLO until it had renounced terrorism. Peres said that Rabin would not meet with the PLO until it had renounced terrorism.

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Diplomats display support for Hrawi

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Forty-one Arab and foreign diplomats attended a new year meeting Monday with President Elias Hrawi, reflecting international backing for Lebanon's new administration.

Hrawi received the diplomats at his temporary headquarters in west Beirut.

He has been unable to move to the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, held by defiant General Michel Aoun and used by him as his headquarters.

"Your presence here is a genuine and true expression against all attempts aiming to undermine the legitimate authority, the loss of Lebanon and its cultural role," Hrawi told the diplomats, who wished the president a happy new year.

Hrawi has been locked in a power struggle with Aoun, who is holding out in the Christian enclave. The general refuses to recognise Hrawi, dismissing him as a Syrian puppet.

Hrawi was elected on Nov. 24 in accordance with an internationally-supported peace pact drafted by the Arab League. "I have taken over a state where man has been almost totally destroyed," by 14 years of civil war, Hrawi said in a speech to the diplomats. "My people want deliverance."

Hrawi said his government was determined to prevent Lebanon's "disintegration on the eye of a new disaster or of international relations based on opportunism," a reference to superpower detente.

Hrawi, a Maronite, asserted that political reforms would soon be introduced to ensure Christian-Muslim coexistence and resolve the civil war despite the opposition of Aoun.

Aoun, also a Maronite, is holding out with 20,000 loyalist troops in the Christian enclave that comprises east Beirut and the hinterland to the north and northeast. He was refused to turn over the presidential palace in suburban Baabda to Hrawi.

Aoun's defiance threatens to cement Lebanon's de facto partition into sectarian cantons. Only the ambassadors of Britain, Iran and Iraq were absent from Hrawi's audience.

British Ambassador Allan Ramsay said after a visit to former President Suleiman Frangieh in his northern hometown of Zgharta.

"There was no need for me to attend the ceremony, President Hrawi is fully aware of the extent of my country's support for him and... the legitimate cabinet."

The Vatican Monday took its distance from Aoun as it stressed the need for dialogue among all parties in the Lebanese conflict. The statement by chief spokesman Joaquin Navarro emphasized the important role the papal nuncio can play in the country torn by 14 years of civil war.

Navarro noted that the nuncio, Spanish Archbishop Pablo Puente, presented his credentials Saturday to Hrawi, which marked the Vatican's formal recognition of the government.

The nuncio said during the credentials ceremony that the Vatican was "deeply concerned" about the situation in Lebanon.

Red Cross moves bodies from Lebanon battle zones

HAMADE HILLTOP, Lebanon (AP) — The Red Cross evacuated 17 decomposed bodies from fields in unattended villages of South Lebanon Monday during a heavy rainstorm called after 17 days of fighting between rival Shiite Muslim militias.

The bodies, wrapped in blankets and plastic bags, belonged to militiamen of the Syrian-backed, mainstream Amal movement which has been fighting the pro-Iranian Hizbollah.

An overpowering stench hung in the air as the bodies were handed over by the Red Cross team to a group of Amal scouts who returned the corpses to their families.

The casualties raised the overall toll in the inter-Shiite bloodbath to 94 killed and 275 wounded, by police count, since the fighting started Dec. 23 in Iqlim Al Tuhah.

The seven-hour truce took hold in most villages after Palestinian fighters deployed in a buffer zone in Iqlim Al Tuhah to disengage the two warring factions.

Iranian envoy Mohammad Ali Besharati, trying to mediate a settlement to end the two-year-old power struggle for control over Lebanon's largest single sect of 1.3 million people, drove from Syria overnight for talks with Shiite leaders.

Besharati, a deputy foreign minister, failed to rein in the clashes on a previous trip last week.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) dispatched eight ambulances and eight station wagons with medical teams from Beirut to evacuate casualties trapped in the villages of the embattled province, an ICRC statement said.

Statements by the command of the rival factions in Beirut spoke of dozens of decomposed bodies lying in the fields, in addition to wounded civilians and combatants in urgent need of medical care.

A Hizbollah leader, who was not identified, said in a statement that the group wanted a ceasefire and guarantees that a peace agreement would be implemented, before any withdrawal.

Amal has refused to negotiate until Hizbollah withdraws from the five villages which its fighters captured.

Police said both factions withheld fire in the villages of Kfar Hatta, Kfar Miki and Kfar Beit as the ICRC teams rolled in.

But elsewhere in the province, particularly around the villages of Jarjou, Baa and Ain Bouswar, Hizbollah and Amal fighters kept up a steady exchange of artillery fire. No casualties were reported.

About 700 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas now man a three-kilometre buffer separating the villages of Kfar Hatta, Kfar Miki and Kfar Beit.

That prevents the two sides from launching major ground thrusts, but it does not necessarily stop them lobbing artillery shells and rockets over the heads of guerrillas in the buffer zone.

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Israeli army detains 100, destroys homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army Monday rounded up more than 100 Palestinians suspected of belonging to "strike forces" and demolished or sealed six houses overnight, officials said.

The arrests were made in sweeps of villages near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, and the military said the detainees belonged to an organisation recently uncovered in the area.

Some of the suspects belonged to strike forces organised by the mainstream Fatah wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), an army official said.

The strike forces are underground groups that enforce orders of the PLO-linked underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising.

Military officials said the group was responsible for the Oct. 7 killing of a Palestinian in the West Bank village of Deir Al Sudan who allegedly assisted the Israeli occupation authorities.

They were also suspected of stabbing and wounding two other alleged collaborators and of torching and firebombing Arab-owned cars as punishment for helping Israel, said the officials who are identified in accordance with army regulations.

Four houses of alleged strike force members in the Ramallah area were sealed overnight, they said.

The army defends its policy of house demolitions and sealings by saying it serves as a strong deterrent against future protests, but it has been criticised by the U.S. government and human rights groups in Israel and abroad as collective punishment.

A study released Dec. 20 by the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies disputed army claims that house demolitions reduced violence. It found that in many cases such measures inflamed the situation.

At least 245 houses have been demolished and 120 sealed since the uprising began 25 months ago, according to army figures.

In Gaza City, the army destroyed the house of Hussein Hijazi Al Luah, 26, who belonged to the "Revolutionary Eagles" group which the army said was linked to Fatah guerrillas. Arab reporters said the two-room house was home to 11 people.

Luah, arrested last October, was suspected of joining Fatah during the uprising, after which he killed a Gaza City municipality worker, wounded a number of other alleged collaborators and tried to shoot another municipal worker, they said.

The Gaza City house of Said Shaaban Al Awabi, 35, was sealed, the military said. Officials said the man, arrested last July,

was accused of being a strike force member who had kidnapped and violently interrogated Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel.

An Israeli military court has jailed an Arab journalist for 15 months for writing part of an underground leaflet for the uprising.

The military court in Lod convicted Hamzeh Samadi, 29, last week of writing an introduction to a leaflet by the clandestine leadership of the uprising. The sentence was passed Sunday.

Samadi, originally from the West Bank city of Jenin, was employed at an Arab Jerusalem press office when he was detained last March.

Sari Nusseibeh, owner of the press office, was named in court documents as an intermediary between the leadership of the intifada and the PLO abroad, but was not prosecuted because of what Israeli officials called "extra-judicial considerations."

The relatively light sentence indicated the court took into consideration that Samadi's writing had called for ending bloodshed and for coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians.

Three other Palestinian activists, detained at the same time on similar charges, are awaiting trial, lawyers said.

Abu Musa group rejects Fahoum reconciliation call

DAMASCUS (R) — A Syrian-backed Palestinian group, Fatah-uprising, said Monday it saw no reason to bury its quarrel with the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We do not find anything to justify reunion with the deviants... unless there is a frank announcement from the PLO leadership renouncing its past destructive policies," said Abdul Hadi Al Nashash, a spokesman for the group.

Fatah-uprising, led by Colonel Mohammad Saeed Musa (Abu Musa), broke from Yasser Arafat's Fatah group in a rebellion against the PLO leadership in 1983.

Along with three other groups, it belongs to the Palestine National Front (PNF), whose chairman Khaled Fahoum proposed reconciliation with the PLO last week.

The PNF met Monday to discuss the proposal and later announced it had decided to continue talks on the issue.

Its other members, the Baathist Al Saiga, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-

General Command led by Ahmad Jibril, and the revolutionary Communist Party have not reacted publicly to Fahoum's initiative.

Fahoum, a former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, told Reuters he had acted in response to changes in Eastern Europe, a traditional source of support for the PLO, and changes in the Arab World, especially last month's renewal of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria.

"Now all the Arabs are talking of solidarity, detente, and the PLO cannot stay on the outside," he said. "It's not in our interests to go with one Arab bloc against another."

The Fatah-uprising statement dismissed the idea that world developments required the group to change its stand. "On the contrary, these international developments mean we should stiffen our position," Nashash said.

Fahoum said he favoured discussion of reconciliation at a meeting of 40 to 50 Palestinian leaders to which the Islamic Re-

sistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad, both based in the Israeli-occupied territories, would be invited.

Such a meeting could discuss reform of the PLO's political and financial methods, PLO unity and improving PLO relations with the whole Arab World, particularly Egypt and Syria.

He said PLO leader Yasser Arafat had split Palestinian opinion by offering too many concessions in search of peace.

"We want Arafat to stop his concessions and to have a collective PLO leadership, not a one-man leadership," he said.

"The United States gave Arafat nothing and promised him nothing while Israel has become more and more arrogant."

The Popular Struggle Front, a small Damascus-based group within the PLO, said in a statement it welcomed Fahoum's call for unity and urged all Palestinian factions to support it.

The front said it wanted a meeting of the PNC to agree on a formula that would assure unity within the PLO.

Dispute over secret police clogs E. German dialogue

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Talks on the country's future between the communist-dominated government and the opposition were suspended Monday after the government rebuffed a demand for an immediate status report on its domestic-spies apparatus.

Opposition groups had threatened to leave the talks altogether if the government could not prove its pledge that the hated secret police network had been dismantled and was being disbanded.

But delegates instead voted to break off talks only until next Monday, when a senior government official was expected to appear before the forum.

The talks were repeatedly halted Monday as representatives of the fractured reform movement argued over how to proceed. One group said it would withdraw from the negotiations unless the government gave a full accounting of the secret police situation the same day.

Government spokesman Walter Halbritter said the demand for an immediate report was "illogical." But he said a government representative could speak on the matter next Monday, and delegates voted to resume talks then.

Earlier, one opposition group charged that as recently as a month ago, secret police agents were continuing to work against the reformers.

Rolf Henrich of New Forum, the largest of the opposition forces, made public what he said was a draft text prepared by secret police agents in the city of Gera on Dec. 9. In it, authorities in East Berlin were urged to take steps to "paralyse" the opposition.

However, Henrich said he was uncertain if the text was ever sent. Leaders at the talks, including Communist Party chief Gregor Gysi, said they had no knowledge of such a message.

Democratic Awakening leader Wolfgang Schnur, who said opposition groups were temporarily pulling out of the talks over the issue, demanded that the national prosecutor's office and the Interior Ministry make an accounting of the domestic surveillance situation.

A collapse of the talks could endanger the already fragile acceptance of Communist Premier Hans Modrow's transitional cabinet by opposition groups, who themselves have been unable to present a unified front.

The Modrow government, formed after a peaceful popular

revolution toppled one-party authoritarian Communist rule, has promised to create conditions for free and fair elections May 6.

The negotiations, launched Dec. 7, include some 40 delegates from the Communists, other political parties long aligned with them but now independent, and the pro-democracy opposition.

Dozens of citizens' groups pressing for social, political, environmental and economic reforms have sprung up throughout East Germany since the Oct. 18 ouster of hardline Communist leader Erich Honecker and the nation's turn towards democracy and open borders.

As talks resumed Monday, the opposition demanded that the government disarm agents of the former state security office by Jan. 19 and drop plans to set up a new agency to succeed it before the May elections.

Peter Koch, named by the government to oversee dissolution of the secret police, said authorities plan to confiscate all of the former agency's arms by the end of January. Former agents are already barred from access to weapons, he said, and telephone-bugging equipment has been dismantled.

Mandela expects to be free within weeks

PAARL, South Africa (R) — Black South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela signalled for the first time on Monday that he expects to be free within weeks.

He told his wife in a prison meeting to begin arrangements for his release.

It was the first time since his arrest in August 1962 and his 1964 life sentence for sabotage that Mandela or his wife, Winnie, had acknowledged any optimism about an imminent release.

"This is the real stuff now," Winnie Mandela told reporters at the gates of the Victor Verster prison farm about 60 kilometres northeast of Cape Town, where her husband is held in a bungalow previously used by a white

warder's family.

She said: "I don't think we are talking about months any longer."

She said Mandela, who had previously insisted he had no idea when he would return home, asked her during a three-hour visit to begin preliminary arrangements for his release.

She declined to say what those arrangements could involve.

Mandela, 71, is a leader of South Africa's outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and a founder of its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation).

The ANC marked its 70th anniversary in London, Zambia, Monday with a statement outlining conditions for talks with the white South African govern-

ment and calling for intensified international action against apartheid.

The movement reaffirmed its commitment to armed opposition to white rule, but offered a ceasefire "as soon as a climate conducive to negotiations is created."

With family lawyer Dullah Omar at her side, Mrs. Mandela acknowledged with a broad smile that it was the first time she had felt any optimism about her husband's release.

"I am very hopeful now," she said as she left for a flight to Johannesburg, where she is expected to see members of a nationalist committee set up to coordinate Mandela's release.

Government sources have said they expected Mandela to be free late in January or after the white-dominated parliament begins work on Feb. 2.

President F.W. de Klerk, who took control of the government in September, has said in newspaper interviews that he intended to release Mandela soon.

He has said Mandela's release would be part of his effort to draw disenfranchised blacks into talks about a shared political future without domination of any one group by another.

"It is difficult to say when it could be," Mrs. Mandela said. "But I don't think we are talking about months any longer."

Mandela was jailed for life with seven others for plotting to overthrow South Africa's white minority government.

He has repeatedly refused deals offered by the government for his release, saying through his daughter Zindzi in 1985 that "only free men can negotiate."

One offer was for release into internal exile in the south coast Transkei homeland where he was born a minor prince in 1918.

Another was for freedom in return for his public repudiation of the armed nationalist struggle against white rule.

His colleagues, including former ANC secretary-general Walter Sisulu, were freed last Oct. 15 in what many observers saw as a rehearsal for Mandela's release.

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Kuwaiti crown prince begins visit to Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah arrived in Egypt Monday for a four-day visit likely to increase trade between the two countries.

Sheikh Saad, heading a team of ministers and top officials, was met by Prime Minister Atef Sedki before starting talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Newspapers said discussions would centre on Kuwaiti investment in Egyptian agriculture and industry. They said an agreement on marketing goods in each other's countries was likely to be signed.

Cairo's semi-official daily Al Gomhuriya said the crown prince was expected to visit an exhibition by Egyptian defence industries.

Kuwait has an estimated \$3 billion in public and private investments as well as bank deposits in Egypt. Egyptian officials have called it the largest foreign investor in the country.

Sheikh Saad's visit includes meetings with Sedki and other senior Egyptian officials as well as sightseeing tours. After the end of the official visit, he will stay on for a three-day private tour.

Kuwait has become a key potential customer for Egypt's military industry, especially after it was the target of Iranian missile attack and other hostilities during the Gulf war.

Economic and military relations between Kuwait and Egypt

received a strong push during the Iranian missile attacks on Kuwaiti vessels and coastal regions before the Iraq-Iran ceasefire went into effect Aug. 20, 1988.

Mubarak has often stated that Egypt was under obligation to come to the aid of Kuwait and other Arab Gulf states against any Iranian threats.

Another cornerstone of Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations is the estimated 200,000 Egyptian expatriates working in Kuwait. They form the second largest foreign community in the country after the Palestinians.

The traditionally good links between the two countries received fresh momentum during a visit to Cairo last September by Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and later by the defense minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

During his November visit, Nawaf extensively inspected sophisticated arms and military equipment produced by the Egyptian military industries and promised to consider their suitability for the needs of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

Kuwait recently declared it had started receiving arms involved in a deal it signed earlier with Egypt, including Fahd armoured cars and the Amoun air defense system.

Sheikh Saad declared Sunday his talks with Mubarak and the Egyptian leader's top aides would focus on bilateral relations and means of boosting Arab solidarity.



WAR, REAL AND PLAY — Fighters of the Shi'ite Amal militia, engaged in fierce battles with Hizbollah, watch children as they play wargames in a South Lebanese village

Turkey: Anti-Muslim protests in Bulgaria a last-ditch bid

ANKARA (Agencies) — Protests sweeping Bulgaria against the restoration of rights to its ethnic Turkish minority are last-ditch efforts by remnants of the ousted regime, Turkey's foreign minister was quoted Monday as saying.

"We hope that the new Bulgarian leaders can break this resistance by the remnants of the (Todor) Zhivkov regime and remove the only major trouble spot in our relations," Mesut Yilmaz told the semi-official Anatolian news agency.

Yilmaz was speaking in Bahrain at the end of an official visit. He is due to meet Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov in Kuwait Tuesday for talks on the future of the minority, over 300,000 of whom fled to Turkey last year.

"We believe the majority of Bulgarians are not chauvinistic and see these protests as last-ditch efforts of local officials against the recent changes," Yilmaz said.

Despite the interior minister's warning that "a hard time will befall the country whose people are divided," protests are continuing in Bulgaria against the restored rights of Muslims and ethnic Turks.

Parliament President Stanko Todorov used a Sunday evening radio address to call for a seven-day "social forum," beginning Monday, to discuss "several aspects of the national question."

Todorov invited representatives of the Bulgarian and Turkish-speaking populations from northeastern and southern regions to take part in the forum.

He said members of parliament, opposition groups, ruling Communist Party members, as well as Bulgarian orthodox and Muslim religious leaders should also attend.

Up to 10,000 people rallied in Sofia Sunday to protest the restoration of religious and ethnic rights two weeks ago.

Interior Minister Anastas Semerdzhiev told the crowd that the protests could undermine "the tendencies towards democracy in the country," but the protesters jeered him.

There is widespread speculation that the anti-Turk and -Muslim sentiment is being fanned by officials loyal to Zhivkov, the longtime Communist leader who was ousted in November and replaced by the reform-minded Petar Mladenov.

It was the straight fourth day of protests against a Dec. 29 deci-

sion by the new Communist leadership to allow Bulgaria's estimated 1.5 million Muslims and ethnic Turks to use Muslim names and practice their religion.

The decision reversed the assimilation policy pursued by Zhivkov. Under it, ethnic Turks were forced to change their names to Bulgarian ones, Muslim religious practices and the use of the Turkish language were restricted.

The official decision to reverse Zhivkov's ethnic policies has sparked public demonstrations in several of the country's cities by Slavs protesting the decision as well as by ethnic Turks rallying for their rights.

The Dec. 29 decision drew protest from some Slavic Bulgarians whose orthodox religion — along with anti-Turkish sentiment bred by long centuries of Turkish rule — led them to support the assimilation campaign.

Carrying banners that read: "Bulgaria — a one-nation country," protesters in Sofia gathered outside the Alexander Nevski Cathedral and called for a referendum to be held on the issue and the resignation of Communist leaders. BTA said protesters threatened to stage a general strike if their demands were not met.

Habash wants PNC to reconsider strategy

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

DAMASCUS — George Habash, symbol of the loyal opposition to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, wants the Palestinian parliament-in-exile to examine the results of the PLO's peace strategy.

"The question is simple: After all these concessions, what positive result has been achieved?" the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) told Reuters.

He said the PFLP was pressing for the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's highest legislative body, to meet soon to consider what the moderate policy it endorsed in Algiers in November 1988 had won for the Palestinians.

"Arafat is not enthusiastic about the idea but we are very enthusiastic," Habash said Sunday at his unpretentious Damascus office, decorated with portraits of PFLP martyrs and facing posters of guerrillas with flowers in their assault rifles.

The Algiers PNC proclaimed an independent Palestinian state that would coexist peacefully with the state of Israel.

Arafat subsequently accepted U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for an exchange of land for peace, affirmed Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

These pronouncements induced the United States to open a dialogue with the PLO in December 1988, but PLO leaders say results from the talks have been meagre.

"The PLO leadership has made a great mistake," Habash said. "It bet too much on diplomacy... and the United States concluded that the way to overcome any obstacle in the peace process is to put pressure on the PLO leadership."

"The PLO leadership thought the way to win the diplomatic battle was to make one concession after another and this has affected the harmony of the (Palestinian) uprising," he said.

Habash said the PLO Executive Committee should have stuck to the position that the Algiers PNC resolutions, which he accepted at the time with reservations, represented maximum concessions.

The PFLP chief said the PLO should return to armed struggle and concentrate on intensifying the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip, now in its third year.

"The intifada should not be an alternative to the armed struggle. The two are complementary," he declared.

The uprising had made great gains in convincing world opinion that the Palestinians deserved self-determination and an independent state, he added.

"But we have to confess that the Palestinian peace plan has not succeeded so far and the clear reason is the stand of Israel supported by the American administration," Habash said.

He voiced scepticism about U.S.-Egyptian attempts to arrange talks between Israel and Palestinians to discuss Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories to choose representatives to negotiate self-rule.

Habash said Shamir was unlikely to accept five conditions for such talks set by the PLO. PLO demands include the right to name the Palestinian delegates publicly, an open agenda and international participation.

"I doubt the meeting will take place and I hope we won't face a situation where the PLO leadership concedes these five points," Habash said.

Sudan says 214 killed in recent tribal clashes

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said Monday that 214 people were killed and 38 injured in clashes late last month between tribesmen and southerners in central Sudan, raising the official death toll by 28.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said the ruling military junta would set up a high-powered committee to probe the clashes Dec. 28 in the town of Al-Gebelein.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), fighting troops in the south since 1983, said in a radio broadcast Thursday that more than 2,000 southerners were killed in the clashes.

It said the killings were carried out by militiamen recruited and armed by the Khartoum government, which it accused of complicity.

Foreign diplomats and relief workers, citing reports from the area, said at least 600 people were killed, mostly from the Nilotic southern Shilluk tribe, which,

with the Nuer and Dinka tribes, are the main ethnic groups in southern Sudan.

The Shilluks live mainly in the southern Upper Nile region, whose northern border is about 50 kilometres south of Al-Gebelein where the killings last Thursday took place.

Al-Gebelein is 350 kilometres south of Khartoum in the White Nile province where many southerners have settled in recent years after escaping famine and fighting between troops and the (SPLA).

The provinces of White Nile, Blue Nile, South Darfur and South Kordofan, stretching across Sudan from the Ethiopian border in the east to Chad in the west, have in recent years seen a series of massacres of southerners.

The military government of General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, in power since he led a coup last June, says the Arab inhabitants of those areas had no choice but to arm themselves in the face of repeated SPLA attacks.

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Interior Minister Anastas Semerdzhiev told the crowd that the protests could undermine "the tendencies towards democracy in the country," but the protesters jeered him.

There is widespread speculation that the anti-Turk and -Muslim sentiment is being fanned by officials loyal to Zhivkov, the longtime Communist leader who was ousted in November and replaced by the reform-minded Petar Mladenov.

It was the straight fourth day of protests against a Dec. 29 deci-

sion by the new Communist leadership to allow Bulgaria's estimated 1.5 million Muslims and ethnic Turks to use Muslim names and practice their religion.

The decision reversed the assimilation policy pursued by Zhivkov. Under it, ethnic Turks were forced to change their names to Bulgarian ones, Muslim religious practices and the use of the Turkish language were restricted.

The official decision to reverse Zhivkov's ethnic policies has sparked public demonstrations in several of the country's cities by Slavs protesting the decision as well as by ethnic Turks rallying for their rights.

The Dec. 29 decision drew protest from some Slavic Bulgarians whose orthodox religion — along with anti-Turkish sentiment bred by long centuries of Turkish rule — led them to support the assimilation campaign.

Carrying banners that read: "Bulgaria — a one-nation country," protesters in Sofia gathered outside the Alexander Nevski Cathedral and called for a referendum to be held on the issue and the resignation of Communist leaders. BTA said protesters threatened to stage a general strike if their demands were not met.

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Iranian rebels report tension after anti-Montazeri protests

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian opposition group said Monday tension was rising in several central Iranian cities as merchants closed shops to protest attacks on top-ranking Shi'ite cleric Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, once designated successor of the late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

In a report from Baghdad received in Nicosia, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said turmoil had spread from Montazeri's hometown of Najafabad to the nearby provincial capital of Isfahan.

The report, which could not be independently confirmed, came after the Iranian press reported demonstrations in the holy city of Qom, 220 kilometres to the north, against any return to political life of Montazeri, 66.

Three months before his death in June, Khomeini dismissed Montazeri as his designated heir and told him to stay out of politics. A council of senior clerics chose Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as Iran's leader instead.

Tehran newspaper said Monday that thousands of clergy and laymen demonstrated at the Fayziyeh religious school and outside Montazeri's home in Qom.

They did not give any reasons for the anti-Montazeri demonstrations but said slogans shouted against him included "Montazeri should know that to obey Khomeini is to obey imam (Khomeini)."

The Mujahadeen said the renewed attacks on Montazeri were triggered by a speech in which the bearded, white-turbaned cleric condemned the new Iranian leadership as traitors.

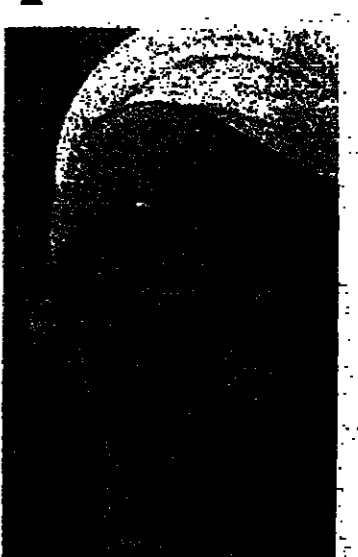
"Tensions have risen sharply in the city of Najafabad in the central Iranian province of Isfahan over the past few days," the Mujahadeen said.

"Bazaar merchants and traders have been closing their business a few hours a day in support of Hussein Ali Montazeri... in the latest round of power struggle within the clerical regime, according to reports from Iran," it said.

"Tensions have spread to the city of Isfahan, where the atmosphere is reported to be 'agitated,'" the Mujahadeen added.

The group said a considerable number of senior clerics backed Montazeri in his confrontation with Khomeini and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"They include (Abdol Karim) Mousavi Ardebili, the former



Hussein Ali Montazeri

chief justice dismissed by Khomeini, and (Abdollah) Javadi Amoli, Khomeini's personal envoy to the Soviet Union," it said.

Montazeri had also received pledges of support from a group of parliamentary deputies and branches of the revolutionary guards, the Mujahadeen added.

The report said Montazeri's supporters from various cities have been going to Qom to declare their support for him.

Nathan: I'll talk with PLO again

The following article by Abie Nathan, Israeli peace campaigner, appeared in the New York Times on Jan. 7 under the head, "I'll talk with the PLO again".

On Dec. 3, an Israeli court sentenced Abie Nathan, one of Israel's best-known peace campaigners, to six months in prison for meeting with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). A 1986 law bars contacts between Israelis and the PLO, which Israel calls a terrorist organisation — while in Ryal prison, Robert Miller, a Manhattan advertising executive who is a longtime friend).

KFAR SABB, Israel — For me, the past days have been a very difficult, lonely and frustrating period. Surrounded by a barbed wire fence with dogs all along the fence barking all the time to remind you that you are a prisoner.

I knew what I was going to get. I have no regrets and I can assure you that I shall continue on my path as long as young soldiers have to risk their lives and young Arab children have to be gunned down — as long as people believe that stones and

bullets will solve the problem. I am ready to spend the rest of my life in prison, if that is the only way to reach out to people believing that to solve the problems in the Middle East we must be willing to talk to each other. Soon after my release, I shall meet the Palestine Liberation Organisation and keep talking no matter what the cost.

Something terrible has happened to my country. This is not the country I knew when I came here in 1948. We have

lost our values. There is nothing humanistic or Jewish in our actions. Without any leadership we are just drifting and may any day enter a storm that could create havoc.

What a pity. I continue to live here and fight on because I still believe that we have a beautiful generation among the young that need so much to be guided and given hope and to be shown understanding and compassion. I have received hundreds of letters from all across the country, all of them appealing to me to hang on, explaining that I am not alone.

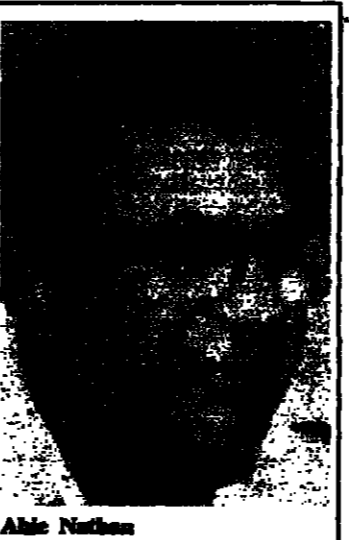
But the road is still a long and lonely one. My fear is that these talks may not succeed. It is just a delay gimmick and not an honest attempt by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to solve the problem.

I fear that such failure might bring about the kind of frustration among the Palestinians

that the PLO could not control. And the extremists among them might start an armed struggle leading to the shooting of Israeli soldiers.

This would bring out extremists in Israel, to demand the kind of killings and deportations in a moment of anger that will result in the end of the peace treaty with Egypt. Such actions, I believe, will cause the intifada to spread among Israeli Arabs, who have for a long time felt a sense of discrimination. Only now we will have the intifada spread to every village — all it needs is a few people to start the trouble in every village.

All this could be avoided if we had the kind of leadership with courage and vision to look into the future and understand that we have to talk to the representatives of the Palestinians. Today, that is still the PLO.



Abie Nathan

The Americans spoke to the Vietnamese, the French to the FLN, the Portuguese to the Frelimo, and now even South Africa is willing to talk to the African National Congress. Only our government is blind. That is why I am in pain over what is happening.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
19:10 Agricultural programme
19:15 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
22:00 Local programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Lucifer
19:00 News in French
19:15 Last story
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mr. Bedwader
21:00 Real Charlotte
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:29 Dhuhr
14:24 'Asr
16:47 Maghrib
18:18 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish Tel. 810740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637085, 683305.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Association Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Association Tel. 623541.
Assiatic Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiatic International Church Tel. 683306.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 649932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cloudy with increasing chances of showers particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be northwesterly

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Awad Hawasleh 777665
Dr. Yousef Rashad 896301
Dr. Mohammed Al-Sayra 732056
Dr. Walid Al-Masri 675485
Fire pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al-Azma pharmacy 637025
Naimoud pharmacy 626762
Al-Salam pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644943

SHARAFI pharmacy

637660

IRABD:

Dr. Ziad Al-Arabi (—)
Al-Sharafi pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 843402
Highway Police 896390
Traffic Police 630321
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 630320
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Autism Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101

AMMAN:

Russell Medical Centre 813813/32
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Sheikh Maternity, J. Amn 624412
Jabel Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Signetani 664171/4
Sheikh Al-Hadi 649131
University Hospital 845843
Al-Mustashar Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdal 66127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdal 641646
Italian, Al-Mahjoun 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111/26
Army, Marja 89161/1/5
Queen Abla Hospital 632405/0
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarga Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRABD:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)279335
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722725
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)671100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)52005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:10 Jeddah (RJ)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
07:20 Cairo (RJ)
07:25 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Zurich, Geneva (RJ)
07:35 London (RJ)
10:00 Baghdad (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:50 Larnaca (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
11:05 Jeddah (RJ)
11:10 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
11:15 Baghdad, Damascus (RJ)
11:45 Montreal, New York (RJ)
17:00 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:10 Tripoli (RJ)
07:15 Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
07:20 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
07:25 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
07:30 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
10:00 Baghdad (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:50 Larnaca (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
11:05 Jeddah (RJ)
11:10 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
11:15 Baghdad, Damascus (RJ)
11:45 Montreal, New York (RJ)
17:00 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Drilling to start soon at Rishch 18

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will soon start drilling gas well number 18 at the Al Rishch district near the border with Iraq, where all indications point to the presence of a vast deposit of natural gas that could be used for generating electricity, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher said Monday.



Thabet Al Taher

Natural gas is currently being exploited in large quantities from Rishch well numbers three, six and 16. The underground gas reserves in the area are estimated at 400 billion cubic feet, the minister said in a briefing during a visit to the ministry by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The visit marks the first in a series of inspection visits by Badran to government departments. Taher noted that 15 per cent of the total electricity needs of the Kingdom were being met through power generated by gas turbine units installed at Al Rishch. This proportion is expected to rise to 20 per cent once two additional gas turbine units have been moved from a location south of Amman to the Rishch district in the coming months, the minister said.

He said once the project has been completed the Kingdom would be saving up to \$10 million worth of energy fuel annually. Furthermore, the ministry has

plans to employ natural gas in local industries and petrochemical plants, Taher said.

The minister told Badran that the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) was pursuing efforts to increase the country's oil production from Hamzeh one, 12 and 14 wells which altogether have so far produced half a million barrels of oil that was refined at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company near Zarqa.

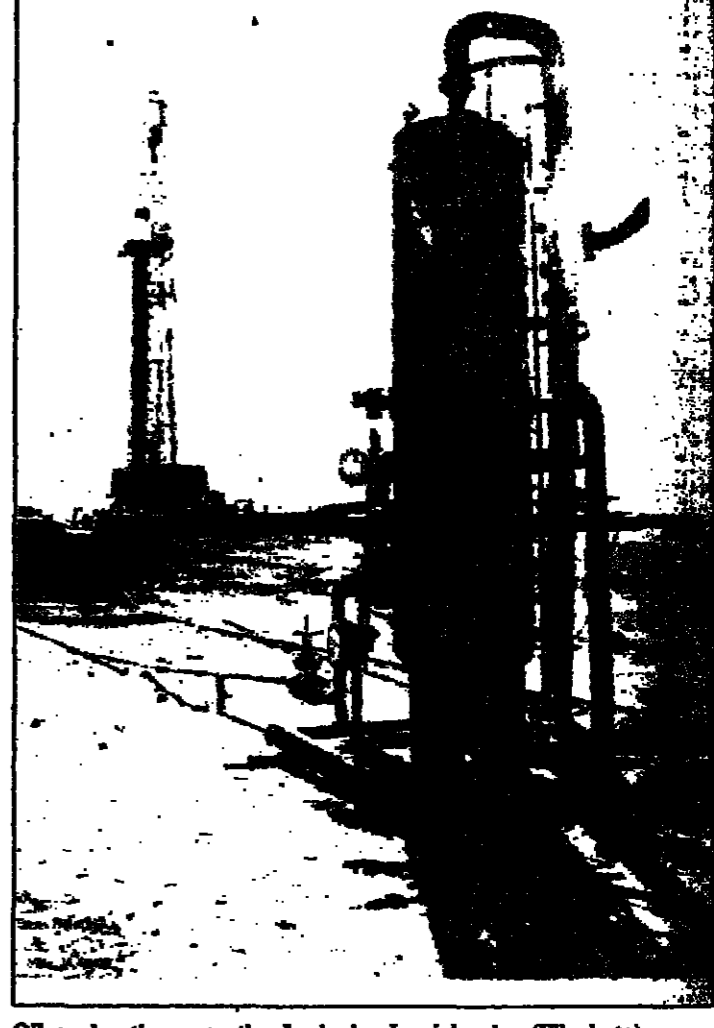
NRA teams have found signs of light grade oil at Al Sarhan area, and exploration operations will continue this year not only at Al Sarhan but also south and west of the Rishch district, Taher said.

He said that several foreign companies were prospecting for oil in Al Azraq, the Dead Sea, Wadi Araba, the northern Jordan Valley, and Al Jafer region under NRA supervision. He referred in particular to the NRA's agreements with the Japanese, Austrian and Canadian oil companies to prospect for oil at Wadi Sarhan and noted that NRA was maintaining close cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources to help in oil-prospecting operations in Jordan.

Taher briefed the prime minister on Jordan's phosphate, potash and cement deposits, which, he said, are being given full attention by the ministry and the NRA.

Taher said that the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) was involved in a project for linking the national grid with that of Egypt. He said that the project would be extended to include Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

Following his meetings and tours of the ministry's sections, the prime minister said that his visit was part of a series of tours he intends to make to various departments. Badran voiced his appreciation of the ministry's efforts in electricity, natural resources and cooperation with other Arab countries in energy fields.



Oil exploration near the Jordanian-Iraqi border (Filephoto)

Jerash crafts centre makes major strides

JERASH (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the Jerash Handicrafts Centre (Petra photo).

The Queen made the statement during a visit she made to the centre where she was briefed on its progress over the past 15 months.

The centre now employs 52 local women, up from 18 at the beginning of 1989.

The staff are involved in producing traditional handicrafts, which were sold for an average of JD 4,000 a month, up from JD 1,000 a month during the previous year.

The centre was initiated by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) National Handicrafts De-

velopment Project in cooperation with local and international voluntary organisations as part of an overall effort to develop the country's traditional crafts.

NHF invited two highly experienced textile designers in November 1988 to help develop new designs for weaving and embroidery, and initiated a four-week training course last August for supervisors in sewing workshops in several voluntary organisations, according to a NHF press release.

During her visit, the Queen discussed prospects for the transformation of Jordan's handicrafts industry from a charitable to a viable business-oriented endeavour.

The Jerash Ladies Benevolent Society now runs the centre, which was established nearly two years ago, and employs local women on the production line, the bulletin said. It said that

because the women became more productive and began working additional hours, their take-home pay had more than tripled over the past months.

The bulletin said the NHF would continue to create new designs and products and procure orders from international buyers on behalf of local producers thanks to its newly-founded Jordan Design and Trade Centre.

Queen Noor toured the centre's units and inspected sections specialising in embroidery, cutting and assembly, weaving and dyeing.

Taking part in discussions over the future of the ways to develop the centre were representatives of the Jerash Ladies Benevolent Society, the Catholic Relief Service, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the NHF.

Illiterates urged to join adult programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan Monday called on all illiterate citizens in Jordan to join the literacy and adult education centres in the Kingdom and receive education free of charge. The minister also thanked the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for its assistance to Jordan in the course of eradicating illiteracy and voiced appreciation to teachers at the literacy centres for their efforts.

In a statement given to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the anniversary of the Arab day for the eradication of illiteracy, Hamdan said: "This year, the anniversary is of special importance since 1990 was declared by the United Nations as a year for the eradication of illiteracy and for international cooperation to provide education for all."

He said that illiteracy was "a social danger" and "eradicating this danger is a national responsibility so that the country can go

ahead with comprehensive plans for development."

Petra quoted Ahmad Al Sous, director of the Ministry of Education's department in charge of providing adult education, as saying that the ministry through its 502 adult education centres was striving to eliminate illiteracy in Jordan by the end of the century in response to a general call made by the United Nations.

He said the illiteracy rate in the Kingdom, which now stands at 20 per cent, could be reduced to at least 10 per cent in the year 2000. Sous said that a total of 8,690 male and female adult students attend the literacy centres in the Kingdom on a regular basis.

Last November a preparatory meeting was held in Amman in preparation for a world conference on education for all scheduled to be held in Thailand in March 1990.

The preparatory meeting, which was organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), focused attention on the need to provide basic educa-



Mohammad Hamdan

tion to all children. Delegates from 18 Arab countries taking part in the preparatory meeting endorsed a proposal to be submitted to the Thailand conference on the right of people under occupation to basic education. It said that education should be free for all people in the elementary stage without any interference by the occupation authorities which could impede the educational process through school closures, interference with the curricula and disruption of teachers' work.

Subscribers owe millions to WAJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) says subscribers to water supplies in Jordan owe JD 10.759 million to the authority, which hopes to collect the amount during 1990.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the dues calculated at the end of the past year are for water consumption of water supplies in 1989 and earlier.

According to the report, subscribers in Amman, including pri-

vate households, government departments and other organisations, account for 42.7 per cent of the total amount, Irbid 13.7 per cent, Aqaba 9.3 per cent, Zarqa 8.6 per cent and Ma'traq seven per cent.

It said that government departments and organisations in Jordan had dues totalling JD 2.474 million or nearly 36.9 per cent of the total amounts owed to WAJ.

6,500 students miss their exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — More than 6,500 students were absent from one or more examinations during the tawjihi general examination taken by Jordanian students this month, according to Dr. Mohammad Obeidat, director of the Examinations and Evaluation Department at the Ministry of Education.

Obeidat said, from the 6,500 absentees, 1,252 students did not take the Arabic examination, while 192 failed to show up for the physics exam and 210 did not take the biology exam. Obeidat said contrary to student complaints appearing in the local press about the nature of questions, all questions were suitable for tawjihi students.

The students had said that more time was needed to answer questions in various subjects particularly physics and mathematics.

Obeidat said that all complaints and suggestions have been taken into consideration and ministry specialists will examine each case before making decisions. Obeidat said he expected results of the examinations taken by more than 60,000 students to be released early next month.

ACC parliamentarians to meet in Baghdad

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Elected parliamentarians from the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — are to hold their first general meeting in Baghdad by the end of this month, the speaker of the Iraqi national assembly said Monday.

Sadi Mahdi Saleh, in a statement upon his departure from Amman for Cairo after a two-day visit, said he and his

accompanying delegation discussed with the speakers of both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament of Jordan "the process of electing the parliamentary committees which will form the nucleus of the future ACC parliament, and ways of developing cooperation in parliamentary affairs."

Jordan Saturday elected 10 members of the Lower House to the ACC parliamentary committee, which also includes the House Speaker and five other members of the Upper House. Similar panels have

been elected by the other three ACC countries.

According to Mohammad Abu Fares, a deputy and a member of the committee, the meetings are to be held bi-annually in rotation in the capitals of the ACC countries. "The meetings will be presided by the speaker of parliament of the host country," he explained.

A councillor in the Egyptian embassy here in Amman, Naji Al Ghatrefy, told the Jordan Times that Egypt's shoura (consultative) council elected

its delegation two weeks ago.

The North Yemen ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, Ali Abdullah Abu Lohoom, said the country's delegation was elected late November.

"I believe that the joint parliament will be concerned with discussing issues of legislative nature, so as to accomplish a comprehensive unity among the four countries," he said.

The idea of a joint ACC parliament was first revealed by His Majesty King Hussein October 1989 in a nationwide

address when he said that the four countries were in the process of forming a joint committee, which "will serve as a constituent framework for grouping the four countries' parliament to pave the way for sound economic integration and collective Arab action."

It is believed that the joint committee will be entrusted with the task of coordinating the four ACC countries' position on international parliamentary affairs and adopt a common strategy as a bloc in dealing with other parliaments.

Zaben vows to solve problem of dentists

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said Monday that the Ministry of Health will try with all possible means to find solutions for the problem of unemployed Jordanian dentists and improve the conditions of those employed in health centres.

Speaking at a swearing-in ceremony of new dentists who joined the Jordan Dentists Association (JDA), Zaben said that Jordan's health centres had a total of 135 dental clinics, employing Jordanian dentists.

The JDA president outlined to

the minister the various difficulties encountered by the association and urged the Ministry of Health to raise the salaries of dentists employed by the government in view of the soaring cost of living in the country.

He also urged the Ministry of Health to have the JDA represented at the Higher Council for Health and the Jordan medical and pharmacists associations.

The minister said that he was always ready to discuss with the JDA and the dentists various proposals and ways of solving problems.



Mohammad Zaben

Conference opens on Euro-Arab media ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day round table conference on the media and cooperation in the field between the Arab World and Europe will open here Monday.

The conference participants represent the media and information services in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Arab News Agencies Federation, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Information.

The announcement said Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin will open the meetings, which will discuss the flow of news from

the Arab World to West Germany and vice versa, and means of assisting news agencies to convey a proper message on developments in the Arab World.

Three working papers from West Germany, the Arab News Agencies Federation and the Egyptian Middle East News Agency will be reviewed by the participants, according to the announcement.

It said the participants, who include directors of news agencies, will tour a number of places of interest in Jordan and meet with Jordanian officials

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES SWISS LEADER: His Majesty King Hussein Monday cabled congratulations to President of the Swiss Confederation Arnold Koller on the occasion of his assumption of office. The King wished the president good health and the Swiss people progress and prosperity (Petra).

BADRAN PLEDGES COOPERATION: Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that his government pledges to cooperate with the legislative authority to build the homeland and serve the nation. During a meeting Monday with delegations representing the tribes of Zu'bi, Suradiya, Ajameh, and Khaleyleh, the prime minister asked delegation members to convey his greetings to Jordanians living in their areas.

ENVOY MEETS KLBI: Jordan's Ambassador to Tunis and permanent representative to the Arab League Sa'ad Al Hassan Monday met with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klbi. Their discussions dealt with several issues related to joint Arab action, the outcome of the Euro-Arab ministerial meeting which was convened recently in Paris, and arrangements related to convening a Euro-Arab cultural seminar in Amman later this year. Hassan also met with Tunisian Minister of National Economic Affairs Mounir Bal'ld. They reviewed means of developing bilateral relations and implementing programmes of cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, information, and tourism under an accord signed recently in Amman. They also exchanged views about means to ensure success for Tunisian and Jordanian trade fairs to be held in Tunis and Amman as well as arrangements related to holding the fifth Jordanian exhibition in Tunis in May (Petra).

QATANANI BRIEFS U.S. GROUP: A team representing the World Affairs Council in the United States Monday visited the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs and met with its director, Ahmad Qatanani, to discuss Middle East issues. Qatanani reviewed the development of the department, which supervises the affairs of the Palestinians living in Jordan and the assistance provided through the department from the Jordanian government to Palestinians living in the occupied Arab territories. Qatanani also briefed the delegation on Jordan's help to the residents of refugee camps in the Kingdom in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) (Petra).

DEPUTIES BRIEFED ON UDD: Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Ra'uf Rawabdeh explained the development of the Urban Development Department (UDD), its philosophy and future plans. During a meeting with several Lower House of Parliament members Monday, Rawabdeh explained UDD's endeavours to develop urban areas overcrowded with people. UDD Director Dr. Hisham Zagha highlighted technical matters related to UDD projects. The discussions also dealt with means to develop UDD activities and to enable people to benefit from its services (Petra).

Plans under way for solar energy meeting in November

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is making preparations for convening the fourth Arab International Solar Energy Conference in Amman in November of this year, and expects more than 100 specialists to take part in the meetings, according to Khaled Touqan, an RSS researcher and rapporteur for the conference.

Touqan said in a statement to the Jordan Times that the conference, which is expected to take place between Nov. 18 and 23 is being organised in cooperation

with the Jordan Engineers Association.

The meetings offer a chance for the participants to exchange views and information in the fields of solar radiation, wind energy, thermal applications, bioconversion, passive solar architecture, heating and cooling and hydrogen production among other areas, Touqan said.

He said the RSS welcomes Arab and international scientists and researchers to take part in the conference which will review

several working papers. Researchers are welcome to send in English, abstracts of prospective technical papers on topics to be taken up by the conference, Touqan added.

According to Touqan, the conference will include a plenary lecture and sessions for presentation of research work with special sessions to be devoted to national papers.

He said that at least 15 Arab and international lecturers will be invited to address the conference.

Diplomats display support for Hrawi

(Continued from page 1)

can favoured dialogue to resolve the crisis between Hrawi and Aoun but the general later told cheering supporters "there is no room for dialogue."

Navarro did not mention Aoun by name but said theuncio will work for a "sincere and loyal dialogue among all parties, taking into account above all those in a weak position who fear for the future of themselves and the

country." The papal spokesman added that any military intervention will only bring more suffering and make it more difficult to resolve the crisis.



The papaluncio, Pablo Pente, reviews, with a senior Lebanese officer, troops in west Beirut before presenting his credentials to President Elias Hrawi this week.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition entitled "They chase 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Irish artist Conal McIntyre at the British Council.

FILMS

- ★ A German film entitled "Agathe, the wrath of God", Arabic subtitled, at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ A French film entitled "Le sacre" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A programme entitled "Diet and Cancer prevention" at the

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

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NOTHING IS more pleasing and comforting to the eye than to see new houses constructed all over the country, apartment buildings sprouting the landscapes of urban areas in the country or better still new factories or business enterprises emerging in spite of all the talk of doom and gloom about the Jordanian economy. There is no better way to give one's country a vote of confidence than to invest for the future in his own country through the construction of homes and establishments or starting new ventures and projects. And judging by the number of constructions and new businesses that are mushrooming everywhere these days, it is a safe bet that the people of Jordan have renewed their faith and confidence in the ability of Jordan to emerge triumphant over its recent economic woes and political challenges.

The Kingdom in turn owes such true nationals and entrepreneurs some meaningful recognition and encouragement. Most of all soft credit needs to be extended to them in view of the fact that their investments generate much needed incomes to the country; and perhaps more important they instill a sense of rejuvenated confidence in the future of the country and its progress and stability. Another way to reward all of Jordanian builders, who engage in making additional confidence-building blocs in the fabrics of the Jordanian economy and politics, is to offer them some kind of tax haven or place them in a lower tax bracket that could serve as some kind of encouragement for them and an inducement for other Jordanians who have yet to make the ultimate patriotic decision of translating their pious words of allegiance into actions by doing the same. What better way is there for any citizen to show his sense of belonging to the country than to make his personal future more tangibly and concretely linked and associated with the future of his country. That would be the most operational way of sifting real nationalists from transitory ones who may still view the country as some kind of temporary haven for their livelihood and belonging. And that is also the best way to strengthen the Kingdom from within and make its steadfastness against the various conspiracies and designs being entertained by the enemies of the Arab World.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday said that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Baghdad and his talks with the Iraqi leader was another chance for the Jordanian and Iraqi leaderships to consolidate their efforts to boost and promote the standing of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). Consultations and coordination between Arab leaders are needed at this moment when the world is witnessing deep changes and political upheavals everywhere, said the paper. The King went to Baghdad also to share with the Iraqi people and armed forces the celebrations marking Iraqi Army Day and to witness the weaponry acquired by Iraq to repel aggression from any source, the paper said. The King's visit, the paper continued, was a true demonstration of Jordan's solidarity with the Iraqi people, and a show of support for Iraq's endeavours not only to achieve peace with its Iranian neighbour, but also to build up its military might that can deal with any external aggression and protect Arab soil. The range of rockets and tanks displayed by Iraq in the parade the paper added, should be a source of pride for the Arab masses everywhere; and should give birth to a new confidence in the Arab nation's capability to deter aggression and to achieve peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday hails the stand of the opposition in the Jordanian Parliament, and says that those who cast a negative vote in the vote of confidence session proved to be true to the electorate and to themselves. Fahd Rimawi notes that those deputies have broken the barrier of fear; and did not compromise where others did, and aired their views quite frankly and openly explaining their opposition to the present government. In return, the prime minister's stand was strengthened by the presence of a group of opposition in Parliament, since this group will serve as a watchdog on government's performance and this can only urge Badran's administration to follow the course it had set itself to pursue in its policy statement to the Lower House, Rimawi notes. The writer believes that it is better for any government to start off with a modest majority in Parliament supporting its policies, so that it can build on such a base and attain greater power through its actions and its commitments to the plan and policy it had committed itself to carry out. Above all, Rimawi notes, the presence of opposition in Parliament proves the true democratic face of the country and bears indications of a brighter future for parliamentary life.

Sawt Al Shabab daily on Monday described Israel's border provocations as part of its policy to escalate tension in the region and to pave the way for another aggression on Jordan. The paper said that Israel believes that by doing so it can escape from the on-going pressure on its armed forces brought about by the continuing intifada. It said that Jordan can never succumb to intimidation and will never compromise its firm stand in support of the Palestinian people who are waging an uprising for freedom. The paper reiterated Jordan's firm backing for the PLO which is seeking to end Israel's occupation of Arab territories and to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. It said that Israel is trying to escape world public pressure on Zionism to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people and is, trying to shift world public attention to other issues of its own creation, and other side questions that can not justify its occupation of Arab land.

After the revolution, Romanians face hard decisions

By Ian McKenzie
Reuter

BUCHAREST — After the first euphoric days of revolution, Romanians face the hard realities of mapping the future of a country starved and debilitated by years of terror and repression.

The popular uprising that overthrew Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last month left the country dizzy with joy but struggling to fill the power vacuum as the old political order collapsed.

The new sense of freedom is reflected in the faces of people on the streets following the ousting and Christmas Day execution of Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

"What was so frightening was the look of grey hopelessness and despair in people's faces," a young Romanian woman said of the Ceausescu years.

The Railway worker Mircea Marpozan, the 45-year-old father of two young daughters, said that before the revolution he had felt despised as a Romanian when he travelled outside his country.

"The greatest thing is not to be ashamed any more, to be able to hold up my head," he said of the new era.

But the National Salvation Front that took power after Ceausescu was ousted is under pressure to move the country quickly along the road to political democracy and economic reform.

Despite the collapse and disappearance of the old Communist Party, discredited as the instrument of Ceausescu's power enforced through the Securitate security police, the front has also been criticised for retaining former Communists in government ranks.

Students who were in the front rank of fighting that toppled the dead dictator called a protest rally Sunday to demand the purge of former Communists and collaborators.

"We are angry because the old Communists are still in power but they are using a different name. Nothing has changed," said Rada, a 21-year-old student at Bucharest Polytechnic at the weekend.

The front bowed to pressure last week and dismissed Deputy Economics Minister Constantin Bostina for having been too closely associated with Ceausescu.

The front has sought to calm doubts expressed by students and intellectuals over its commitment to democracy by pledging to hold free elections by April — though some aspiring politicians have criticised this as too soon to permit proper political organisation.

Political groups have until the end of this week to register their names and policies. Several parties have registered so far, including the National Peasants' Party and an ecological Green Party.

The front has said some of its 151 members would seek election to parliament although it would not itself constitute a political party.

Some political observers say the front, as the best known institution around the country, will win a wide following outside



By DANZIGER. The Christian Science Monitor/Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Bucharest. "A lot of people see in the Salvation Front their liberators," commented a Romanian journalist.

Unless other political groups manage to organise quickly in the provinces, the real political battle is expected to be waged in Bucharest, with 2.3 million of

Romania's 23 million population. The best-placed political party so far appears to be the National Peasants' Party, which also describes itself as a Social Democra-

tic Party and has a traditional base among workers as well as peasants. It dates back to the 1930s but lay dormant under Communist rule since 1946.

Claimant to Albanian throne plans uprising

By William Maclean
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — From a heavily-guarded home hidden in the African bush, an uncrowned king plots the downfall of Eastern Europe's most hardline Communist rulers.

A fax machine hums into life, and the tall, gaunt figure of the claimant to the throne of Albania, Leka I, rises eagerly from his desk to read the latest in a growing flood of press clippings and messages from a world-wide network of supporters.

The South African-based Leka, son of Albania's late King Zog, says reforms sweeping Eastern Europe have made his people ripe for democracy.

"You can't keep people down for ever and ever," the soft-spoken exile told Reuters and the television news agency Visnews.

The bespectacled 50-year-old Leka spoke in a wood-paneled office draped with flags and crammed with mementos from his homeland, including a photograph of his father, overthrown

by invading German and Italian troops in 1939.

Exiled from his country when he was only two days old, Leka has lived in Europe, Egypt and Africa. He works as a commodities trader with interests in the Middle East and Asia.

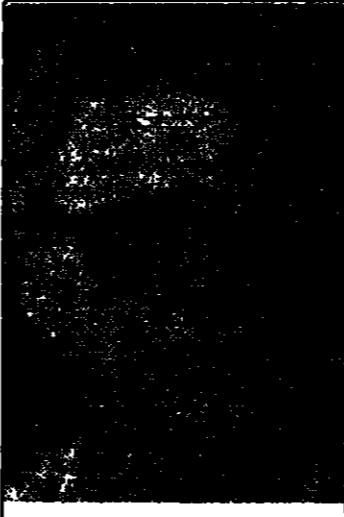
Leka, his Australian wife Suzen and their South African-born son Anwar have lived in the white-ruled republic for almost 10 years.

Two tough-looking private South African security guards armed with pistols hovered near Leka, who wants to rule his kingdom but says he would work in any capacity to bring down Eastern Europe's last remaining Stalinist rulers.

"I see my role as a catalyst," he said.

"The Albanian is someone who likes his leader to say 'follow me'... I must give my people encouragement, tell them there are forces working for their liberation."

In the next few weeks he plans a world tour to visit hundreds of thousands of Albanian emigres in



Leka I

North America, Europe and Australia to drum up support for a campaign to overthrow the Communists who seized power at the end of World War II.

He also plans to broadcast radio messages to Albania's three million population to prepare an uprising.

Leka said short wave radios were banned but people living near the borders or near the coast could pick up foreign radio stations. News of December's dramatic changes in Eastern Europe would seep into the country this month and next, he said.

Albania is situated between Greece and Yugoslavia and has a coastline on the Adriatic Sea facing Italy.

Leka declined to identify the main groups who support him but said an uprising "would rest primarily with the armed forces and the Sigurimi (secret police)."

"The populace and the military will eventually join hands, but that does take a bit of coordinating."

In a New Year message he is sending into Albania through couriers from neighbouring countries such as Greece he promised to act as guarantor of a national referendum in which Albanians could choose the form of government they wanted.

Asked what kind of society he preferred, he replied a free enterprise economy combined with a

system of state welfare.

He acknowledged conditions had improved "slightly" in his country under Communism. The average Albanian had a kilo of meat a week whereas 40 years ago it was once a month.

"But the fact that you might be woken up at any moment in your house just for having said your prayers in an officially atheist state, I don't know how much of an improvement that is."

Leka was educated in Egypt and at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy. A Muslim, he has influential friends in the Middle East including the Saudi Arabian royal family and the family of the late Shah of Iran.

His godfather was Saudi Arabia's late King Faisal, who helped him start in business.

Leka says he speaks eight languages including Arabic.

He says a free Albania would have good relations with Arab countries but in time might be ready to recognise Israel.

Relations with neighbour Yugoslavia would depend on the issue of Yugoslavia's autonomous

province of Kosovo, a hotbed of tension between the region's 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Serbs.

"I would like to see a decision by the Yugoslav government that a problem exists... once that happens we can sit down and discuss the problem of reunification," he said.

He wanted to keep Albania's good relationship with Italy and saw Greece as a natural ally. About the Soviet Union and China: "I don't have preconceived ideas. I'm neither for nor against."

Leka's mother, former Queen Geraldine, is to move shortly from her home in Spain to his rambling ranch-style home at the end of a dirt road in isolated scrubland on plains north of Johannesburg.

An atmosphere of security hangs over the property, which is patrolled by five ferocious boxer dogs. Leka says he wears a pistol on the occasions when his security guards are away.

A pump-action shotgun hangs on a frame beside his desk.

Vietnamese Communists, eyeing East Europe, urge reforms

By Jeremy Wagstaff
Reuter

HANOI — Intellectuals and Communist Party ideologues in Vietnam are urging their party to respond to political upheavals in Eastern Europe by relaxing its 45-year grip on power.

In interviews with Reuters Sunday, these people said the Communist Party must respond to a crisis in Soviet-led socialism by giving ground, even to the extent of allowing some degree of multi-party democracy.

Communist leaders in Hanoi have been surprised and confused by breathtaking political changes among Vietnam's East European allies and are afraid they might

upset the country's own socialist system.

The constitution says the ideal future is Communism," said senior journalist Nguyen Van Dang. "Parties which form and oppose this are illegal... But if the people want to change this they can."

Impoverished Vietnam has been isolated diplomatically and economically from the West since its 1978 invasion of Cambodia and has relied almost exclusively on Soviet and East European support to survive.

With the lightning collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, Vietnam's ageing leaders are faced with the option of either tightening their hold on power in the midst of growing internal

dissent or introducing Soviet-style democratic reforms, officials said.

"We must try to get out of this impasse to resolve this political, economic and financial crisis," said Bui Tin, deputy editor of the party daily newspaper Nhan Dan.

There have been no echoes in Vietnam of street demonstrations which have shaken cities in Eastern Europe, but young people are getting restless for change.

Hanoi has recently allowed limited freedom of expression in the media and parliament, but officials said a party plenum due soon would embrace significant changes and may revise a decision made in August which ruled out political pluralism.

Vietnam greeted the first signs of change in Poland last August with a barrage of condemnation, but has now apologised to the new Solidarity-led government and congratulated new non-Communist leaders in Eastern Europe, officials said.

They said changes in Eastern Europe did not indicate Communism was in its death throes, but that Communist parties had to be democratic to survive. "Any government which goes against wishes of the working people will be overthrown," said Duong Xuan Nam, deputy editor of the youth newspaper Tien Phong.

He ruled out the possibility of mass protest in Vietnam but said students had reacted by calling for faster liberalisation, which he said would be reflected in the next party congress.

"I expect the next congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party will bring big changes, not least in personnel," he said.

Officials have said party leader Nguyen Van Linh, plagued by illness since taking over in 1980, would resign in the next few months.

Intellectuals said there was an urgent need to make the party, which has ruled the North since 1954 and the whole country since 1975, more accountable.

"The level of democracy in our party and in our society is not

high," said Nguyen Van Dang, who is deputy chief editor of the party's theoretical monthly Tap Chi Coi San. "This is what we have to overcome."

With the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, Vietnam has lost the unquestioning political solidarity of more than half its allies, diplomats said. Vietnamese officials admitted this was

more serious than the economic consequences.

"To be frank, with Eastern European countries we have been having an export surplus," said assistant Foreign Minister Vu Khoan. "If Eastern European countries reduce their exports to Vietnam there's not much of a problem."

Vietnamese officials said the next party congress, which they said probably would be held next year, would be vital in shaping the country's future.

Most party ideologues are confident Vietnam will stay socialist whatever happens to its European allies.

"The idea of Communism will win over in the long run," said Dang.

East Europe edges towards free elections

By Ian Mackenzie
Reuter

VIENNA — The nations of Eastern Europe, throwing off the shackles of Communist dictatorship, are edging towards democracy with free elections promised this year.

The dominant role of the Communist Party has been rejected and new political parties are springing up after a revolutionary whirlwind swept away old dogmas.

But some Western diplomats warn that East European leaders also face dangerous pressures from people impatient and frustrated at the speed of political reform and economic advancement.

Calling for a return to morality in politics, Czechoslovakia's new president and long-time dissident, Vaclav Havel, said in a New Year's address:

"The worst thing is that we live in a contaminated moral environment... because we became used to saying something different from what we thought."

"We became used to the totalitarian system and... thus helped to perpetuate it."

Romania, the only country where bloodshed accompanied revolutionary change, took its first steps Monday towards pluralistic democracy with the National Peasants party appealing for support from farmers and

the church.

The National Salvation Front, a loose coalition of intellectuals, soldiers and politicians that has ruled Romania since the overthrow last month of Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, has promised free elections by April.

Multi-party elections are also due in the first half of the year in Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Elections were held in Poland last year.

A committee member of Romania's National Peasants Party, Liviu Petrina, expressed confidence in the future at a Bucharest news conference.

"Our party won 78 per cent of the vote in the last free elections staged in Romania 43 years ago," he said. "We feel we have every chance. The people are with us."

He stressed the need for a return to moral values after 24 years of brutal rule during which the Ceausescu family lived in immense luxury while the people faced starvation.

"The worst thing here was the moral miasma in which we lived," he said. "We were becoming barbarians. We want to re-establish Christian values, honesty, respect for the truth..."

A former leader of the Romanian Communist Party, Silviu Brucan, who turned against Ceausescu, said in a Bucharest television interview Monday that the party had no future and should go into liquidation.

Bulgaria's Communist leaders, hoping for peaceful change, pledged the people would "taste the fruits of freedom" in 1990.

The Bulgarian Communist Party, which has pledged to follow the lead of other Eastern European countries by renouncing its dominant role, was expected to meet opposition groups to discuss ways to speed up democratic reform.

Not all opponents of Communist rule want quick elections. In both Romania and Bulgaria opposition figures have said the current voting deadlines do not give enough time for political groups to organise after more than 40 years of dictatorship.

Eastern Europe faces daunting political and economic problems. East German leaders, all too aware of the lure of the West, must try to persuade their people to stay and help build their economy for a better future.

In Warsaw, Poles celebrated the New Year with revelry unseen since the end of World War II, but draconian price increases will hit them hard when shops reopen.

Time has stood still in one staunch Marxist-Leninist state, however. Ramiz Alia, leader of New Year message the winds of East European reform would not sweep through their country.

"They cannot succeed in doing us harm," he said.

Features

Fashions from the province

By Katie Sahet

CAIRO — Museum or fashion house? One hesitates for a few minutes when entering Shahira Mehrez's shop in Cairo. Straight out of an orientalist painting of the 19th century when Western artists strived to depict the magic of Arab interiors and landscapes, it feels like a different world.

As soft lighting pierces the carved-wood shutters that adorn the windows, fabrics, pottery, "hubbly bubbly" water pipes, copper ware, miniatures and furniture of inlaid mother-of-pearl set the tone. Deep in a corner a majestic baroque sofa saved from an uncertain fate in an obscure shop in Alexandria beckons to let the visitor look across the centuries at precious fabrics cascading over the side of a large wooden chest. Further in, the bulb of a glass stiller used to make rose water glows softly.

These rooms, three floors up in the Dokki area of Cairo, are the domain of Mehrez, who has dedicated the past two decades to collecting, preserving and producing clothes, ornaments and objects which used to be part of daily life in rural Egypt.

Mehrez, now in her early forties, is away but work continues in the shop where she brought together tributes to Egypt's past. Her associate is Nour Hakim, 36, originally from Lebanon, who also collects traditional arts and crafts and who has worked with Mehrez for a number of years. Says Hakim: "Shahira was born into a family of landowners in the Nile Delta. And since her childhood, she was fascinated by the clothes worn by the peasants in the fields or at home. One day she felt like wearing one of these dresses made of shimmering fabric worn by country women. She discovered that the pattern is really simple, yet very flattering to the female figure: it makes most women look slim and gives them a sort of majestic air, particularly when they walk."

Hakim explains that Mehrez later became interested in the traditional garb worn by men all over Egypt. To the surprise of the local peasant folk, she would go and browse around in the markets and fairs all over the Delta area,

in the cases of the western desert, in Upper Egypt and in Nubia.

This, says Hakim, is how Mehrez discovered that the cut of women's dresses is essentially the same all over the country: one piece of fabric reaching down almost to the ankles with a rounded piece added on the chest, and a round collar and sleeves that puff at the wrist. From north to south, the pattern is the same, except for one detail: the breast piece and trimmings around it. The embroideries of the breast piece are what distinguishes a dress from Giza, near Cairo, to that worn by women in the desert oases of Siwa or the town of Assiut in Central Egypt.

To Mehrez, the dresses stand as a symbol of the rural Egypt that is so often ignored by city people and tourists. She began collecting them, and found out about a style that local women call "embire". It occurred to her that not only the word but also the style came from the French word "Empire", which is often used to describe a type of high-waisted dresses with puffy sleeves worn during the reign of Napoleon I, or Napoleon III.

It appears that when France's Empress Eugenie inaugurated the Suez Canal in 1869, she arrived with a whole retinue of French ladies who caused a revolution in Egyptian fashions that affected even rural areas. Prints and drawings from the first half of the 19th century, before the Empress' visit to Egypt, show that women used to wear simpler garments that looked like a sort of sack, often made of striped fabric with straight sleeves that were not gathered at the wrist.

In 1968, Mehrez set up a workshop in Cairo where she started producing not only women's dresses from old patterns, but also traditional garments for men. It was an immediate hit and in the early '70s, men and women alike were going to cocktail parties in Rome, Paris, New York and Rio de Janeiro wearing the Egyptian peasant's dress with wide sleeves and flowing fabric. Also hugely successful were the dresses made in the style worn by the bedouin women of the Sinai desert in Eastern Egypt, with thousands of tiny mother-of-pearl buttons



In her Cairo stores Shahira Mehrez provides outlets for rural craftsmen.

sewn on the front and intricate, colourful cross-stitch embroidery. The high cost of these dresses did seem to not deter the fashion-conscious who passed through Cairo.

After opening three shops in Cairo where she also sold jewellery and artifacts, Mehrez "was caught up in the whirl of her own success," says Zobeida Nagui, 51, a cousin who has become an associate and also helps out at the Dokki store. With a background in Islamic Art and architecture, "she hadn't expected such a success (in the fashion world) and it gave a new direction to her life. She managed to collect and save a great many objects, costumes, pieces of furniture and sculptured

wood that might otherwise have disappeared for ever."

Adds Hakim: "During her travels, Mehrez discovered the beauty of what are usually considered humble, ordinary objects. Along with traditional jewellery from Nubia or Siwa, she picked up all sorts of artifacts like baskets from the oases, embroideries from El Arish (on the northern Mediterranean coast of Sinai) or carpets made in the desert. She developed a passion for what she calls popular art and decided she wanted people to learn about it, appreciate it and use it in their daily lives."

Pursuing her goal Mehrez decided to create a small folklore museum to try to preserve some

objects that are abandoned. "The life of the Egyptian peasant has changed a great deal in the modern age," Hakim notes. "Women who had used solid copper pans like their mothers and grandmothers traded them for easy-to-clean aluminium; young women who came up to the cities to find work soon give up their traditional dress for Western-style garments. Nubian women whose pride had always been their heavy silver jewellery now prefer gold because it is worth more, but it cannot be used to make the traditional style of jewellery."

In the course of her travels, Mehrez met Michel Pastor and his wife Evelyn, a couple from Switzerland who have been living



Looking at Egypt's rural traditions for inspiration, Shahira Mehrez blends the old and the new to create fashionable clothing.

for years in the desert on the edge of the large oasis some 130 kilometres west of Cairo called Fayoum. They have become famous in Cairo for the pottery they make. Their meeting with Mehrez was the beginning of a strong friendship that brought together both the old and the new, the East with the West. Michel Pastor designed the interior of Mehrez' folklore museum which is due to open soon, in a space adjacent to her Dokki shop.

Her busy schedule did not stop Mehrez from launching yet another project: encouraging the local artisans to keep on producing by providing an outlet for their crafts. When in 1982 the

Israeli forces pulled out of the Sinai desert, which they had occupied since 1967, Mehrez went up to the northern town of El Arish and re-organised an embroidery workshop where young women use centuries-old techniques. The style can be seen on the traditional costumes of the women of the Sinai: intricate geometric designs embroidered in cross-stitch on a black background in which red dominates over orange and white interspersed with a little green and blue.

Mehrez's sources for crafts also include craftsmen from the Siwa oasis who still weave baskets in the traditional method — so tight that the basket is water-resistant,

a weaver still using traditional Islamic designs, and a carpenter who produces mother-of-pearl inlaid furniture. She also sells carpets woven by the bedouins of the Libyan desert who use them to barter for goods. These warm-coloured carpets are striking with their pattern of dark red, yellow and white wool woven in irregular stripes.

With her energy, spirit of enterprise and artistic sense, Mehrez brings into the light the rich but too often forgotten cultural heritage of the provinces. Her latest plan to launch a line of clothing both modern and traditional promises to turn any peasant girl into a princess — World News Link.

Can Pisa exist without its tower?

By Clare Pedrick

PISA — The good citizens of Pisa haven't had much time for the Romans since medieval days, when this once-great maritime republic lined up its forces against the soldiers of the Vatican. Now a new and equally bitter dispute has erupted over the future of Pisa's proudest possession — the famous Leaning Tower, one of the world's most photographed monuments.

Officials down in the Italian capital say that the 55-meter tower is dangerous and could topple over at any moment. After studying a scientific report, Minister of Public Works Giovanni Prandini described it as "a matter of extreme urgency" and has recommended that the tower be closed for restoration. A special committee has been set up to study how to support the structure.

The people of Pisa are horrified by the news. After warning that closing the tower, which attracts 800,000 visitors a year, will cripple the city's tourist industry, the mayor recently re-elected and declared a three-month closure, but the battle continues.

The University of Rome's History of Art Department has lodged a strongly worded protest suggesting that Signor Prandini cease to meddle in things he doesn't understand, while Professor Giuseppe Toniolo, head of the Opera della Primaziale — an ancient order that has looked after the tower since the 13th century — complains about being kept in the dark about Rome's intentions. "I would hope we might be consulted in the future," he said tartly. "After all, we have been looking after the tower for 800 years."

Just what keeps the tower from toppling is a mystery that eludes a solution. The tilt is a full 5 metres from the perpendicular and increases slightly but steadily every year. The bells at the top of the tower have not been rung for years for fear of destroying the precarious balance. Aircraft are banned from flying over the monument, although few pilots can resist the temptation.

One theory is that the tower was deliberately built at an angle as a kind of medieval practical joke. In another theory, it was an architectural blunder, a notion now dismissed by modern scholars who point out that when building began in 1173 the Uni-

versity of Pisa had one of the world's finest schools of mathematics and architecture.

"Frankly, we don't know what happened," said Professor Piero Pierotti, a renowned expert on the monument. "There is nothing certain about the tower." One thing that is certain is that the tower began to lean even as it was being built. Drawings show that by the time work was completed, in the early 14th century, the building was already at an angle of 1.5 meters.

Professor Pierotti, who teaches in the History of Art Department at the University of Pisa, has spent 30 years trying to unravel the mysteries of the monument. "I am fascinated," he said. "It's a puzzle no one has ever been able to solve."

His studies show that the tower was built along the lines of a

Greek temple to very precise mathematical principles, with the Greek column as the unit measure. The building was conceived as a public-relations stunt, he says. "At the time, Pisa was a maritime republic and the richest in the Mediterranean, trading with the Islamic merchants from north and east Africa. The main piazza, and the tower with it, were built to show off Pisa's wealth when it hosted an annual fair each August — one of the world's first trade fairs."

Pierotti, who has just received a grant from the computer firm Olivetti to make a complete electronic survey of the monument, is one of the most vocal opponents of the Rome plan to shore up the structure. "The trouble is, the engineers from the ministry are treating the tower as though it were a modern construction, built

of reinforced concrete," he commented with barely concealed disdain. "We should study it far more deeply before we start fiddling with it. We must learn from the stones. It's an architectural manual if you know how to read it."

Professor Pierotti predicts that the tower has a good 1,000 years ahead of it before it finally tips over. "It's been worked out that it can afford to learn another meter, which, at the present average of 1 millimeter a year, gives it a long way to go yet," he said. "The monument is not dangerous. I'd feel more scared going up the Eiffel Tower in Paris. That was never built to last as long as it has."

Among plans being considered by Public Works Minister Prandini is one to inject cement into the

hollow walls of the tower. Critics charge that the project would destroy the tower's natural resiliency, which has protected it from earthquakes and gale-force winds over the centuries.

Another proposal is to surround and support the tower with 32 metal stake driven into the ground, like a giant iron cage. "Monstrous," thundered Pierotti. "The stones of the tower are held together by gravity, not cement or plaster. The pressure would send the thing crashing to the ground."

Yet another plan would involve sinking two huge metal arms beneath the foundations of the building, one pushing and the other pulling. By Pierotti's reckoning, that could cause the tower to snap off at the base like a plucked flower. "If that doesn't

bring the tower down, nothing will," he quipped.

Professor Pierotti could have a point. History shows that every time man has started to interfere with the monument's magic balancing act the building has begun to lean even more. Back in 1838 a well-meaning architect dug a circular trench around the tower, which responded by lurching dramatically. A century later another "expert" decided to pour cement into its base. "The tower didn't like that, either," said the professor.

Support for the hands-off campaign arrived from an unexpected quarter in the form of Soviet engineer Fedot Ignatievich Piotr, who flew in from Moscow clutching a model of the tower that he had built after 12 years' study of the phenomenon.

Piotr, who teaches at Moscow University, claims that the tower's movements are caused by the tides or the phases of the moon and has strongly warned against upsetting the delicate balance.

Said Pierotti, "What he says makes good sense. We know that the soil beneath the tower is clay and that 8 meters below that there is a water course linked directly to the sea, which is only 11 kilometers away. It would also explain the constant nature of the movement over the years. It's always been human intervention that has sparked off the dramatic changes in the tilt."

Back in Rome, such ideas are dismissed as fanciful. Ministry officials point ominously to the tower in the northern city of Pavia that collapsed earlier this year, killing two people. The Pisa

lobby counters by hinting darkly that the Rome officials may have ulterior motives. "If these works do go ahead, a lot of money will be spent, which will mean very good news for whomever gets the contracts," said Pierotti. "There has been talk of a figure as high as 100 billion lire. It does make one rather suspicious."

Until the temporary closure a few weeks ago, the tourists have made it clear whose side they are on. Officials selling tickets at the base of the tower reported that business had never been so good. Visitors eager to climb to the top of a structure that may no longer be standing by the time that their grandchildren are born were swarming up the 275 crooked steps to the bell tower at the rate of more than 1,500 a day. — World News Link.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Aramco announces new oil and gas find in Saudi Arabia

DHAHRAN (Agencies) — Saudi Arabian Oil Co. announced Sunday the discovery of a gas and oil field, the third find in six months in the world's largest oil exporter.

The announcement from Saudi Aramco headquarters in Dhahran said the strike, in the Raghib area around 123 kilometres southeast of the Saudi capital of Riyadh, was commercially viable.

Testing on Jan. 1 showed Raghib-1 well could produce 3,650 barrels per day, while gas could be produced at the rate of 10 million cubic per day, it said. The well was spudded on Nov. 19.

The announcement, distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, said the oil was of the high-quality, sulphur-free crude oil found earlier in the year in the Dilam and Al Hawtah discoveries.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Friday that the new oil discoveries south of Riyadh produced oil of the highest quality which could raise Saudi Arabia's per barrel oil income by \$1 to \$2.

The tested Raghib formation was at a depth of between 8,023-8,133 metres, said the announcement. Further drilling was planned to determine the reserves.

The kingdom already boasts the world's largest single oil reserves which its updated estimates of last year put at 252 billion barrels. Saudi Aramco has

recently intensified its search for new oil deposits in the centre of the kingdom, away from the massive producing fields along the Gulf coast.

The company will continue seismic surveys and drilling to determine the relationship between the Raghib strike and the earlier discoveries at Dilam and Al Hawtah, the announcement said.

Saudi Aramco said Raghib-1 is located 27 kilometres south east of the Dilam-1 discovery well and 95 kilometres north of the Al Hawtah-1 strike, it said.

The oil and gas formation at Dilam, announced by the kingdom in November, was at a depth of 8,100 kilometres, with testing indicating a production capacity of 4,300 barrels per day of oil. The crude discovered at Al Hawtah in July had a viscosity of 44 degrees API and contained 0.06 P.C. sulphur. The highest quality crude currently exported by Saudi Arabia has an API gravity of 39 degrees and a 1.1 P.C. sulphur content.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia seems set to enter a decade of steady economic expansion after making painful budget cuts throughout most of the 1980s, bankers and diplomats have said.

Unveiling its 1990 budget, the government has projected its first spending increase since the oil boom peaked in 1981, with planned expenditures rising by 1.4 per cent in the coming year to 143 billion riyals (\$38.1 billion).

"We think they will begin to climb from here on out. They have turned a corner," said a Western diplomat in Riyadh. The kingdom saw a dramatic fall in oil revenues from more than \$100 billion in 1981 to a low of \$13.6 billion in 1986, forcing it to make budget cuts up as high as 15 per cent a year for most of the decade.

But diplomats said the market for Saudi crude oil picked up substantially in 1989 and looked likely to keep on rising.

Total 1989 revenues rose to around 120 billion to 125 billion riyals (\$32 billion to \$33.3 billion) from the originally projected 116 billion, they said, and this was nearly all due to an increase in oil income.

Revenues rose to around 120 billion to 125 billion riyals (\$32 billion to \$33.3 billion) from the originally projected 116 billion, they said, and this was nearly all due to an increase in oil income.

"Markets were much, much stronger than anyone anticipated a year ago. The budget worked out better than anyone thought," said the diplomat.

Oil revenues were expected to rise still further in 1990 to 86 billion riyals (\$23 billion) from around 81 billion in 1989.

This provided Saudi Arabia to produce within its current OPEC quota of just over five million barrels per day and based on a barrel of Arabian light, the benchmark Saudi crude, selling at \$16.25.

Diplomats said Saudi budget projections for both revenues and expenditure were probably low. "The government probably considers current spending at the rock bottom minimum to maintain a certain level of economic activity and political stability," said a banker.

According to sectoral figures released by the government, allocations for administration declined.

"They will have to make sharp cuts on the administrative side, which is hard to do," said a diplomat.

The government said it would make up the difference between revenues and expenditure by continuing its sensitive programme of issuing riyal-denominated bonds in the local market.

But bankers say their appetite for the medium-term instruments has largely been satisfied and many are being taken by government pension funds.

Diplomats estimated that Saudi Arabia was currently drawing \$4 to \$6 billion a year from its foreign reserves.

The reserves are estimated at around \$65 billion, but only \$20 billion to \$25 billion are liquid, bankers said. If oil revenues were to remain stagnant the reserves could last as little as four years.

Jordan boosts farm exports

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last year exported 527,000 tonnes of vegetables and fruits worth JD 103.6 million, and imported 47,000 tonnes of other agricultural products from Arab and foreign countries to meet local market demand, according to a statistical bulletin issued Monday by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

The bulletin said vegetables accounted for nearly 81 per cent of the total exports, earning Jordan some JD 78.8 million. Tomatoes came at the top of the list of exports, accounting for 42 per cent, followed by cucumbers, eggplants, pepper and citrus fruit.

Most of Jordan's exports of vegetables and fruits went to Arab Gulf states mainly to Saudi Arabia which bought 41 per cent of the total exports, followed by Kuwait, 29 per cent; the United Arab Emirates 16 per cent; Bahrain, five per cent and Lebanon four per cent, according to the bulletin.

It said that the rest of the exports or one per cent of the total went to European countries.

According to the bulletin, last year's exports registered the highest figures in the 1980s exceeding the exports of 1982 when Jordan exported a total 514,000 tonnes. The 1989 exports exceeded by 29 per cent those of 1988, the bulletin added.

Referring to imports, the bulletin said that most of Jordan's purchases in the past year were apples (29 per cent), dried onion (20 per cent), potatoes (18 per cent), dates (13 per cent) and other types totalling eight per cent.

Economist estimates Soviet millionaires close to 30,000

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Up to 30,000 people in the Soviet Union are millionaires, mostly from dealing in the country's thriving black market, a leading economist was quoted as saying.

Tatyana Koryagina, a member of the government commission on economic reform, told the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda that up to 30 million people were involved in an intricate network of providing scarce goods and services.

She said her work with police and officials of the prosecutor's office made a mockery of official figures putting at 30 the number of millionaires in the country.

"My assessment would put them at between 15,000 and 30,000," she told the newspaper.

"According to our figures no fewer than 30 million people are tied up in the shadow economy and the turnover involved approaches 100 billion roubles (\$160 billion)," she noted.

She said unmasking and prosecuting entrepreneurs was complicated by the fact that large groups involved had "a reliable umbrella, a legal expert, their own man in the police or in local or senior levels of government."

Koryagina has gained some notoriety for her exposes of black market operations in the country. She regularly cites figures for various malpractices connected with the country's chronic shortage of basic goods.

In October she told a newspaper in the Baltic republic of Latvia that conservatives in senior positions were hatching a plot to overthrow President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In her Komsomolskaya Pravda interview, Koryagina said most of the money accumulated in black market deals was kept in gold ingots, coins, icons, antiques, cars or property.

She dismissed suggestions that monetary reform — introducing a new currency to undermine black market operations — would expose up to 100 billion roubles in funds derived from illegal transactions.

"My calculations show that this figure will be some five times lower," she said. "And monetary reform is a very costly exercise for the state."

Another Soviet newspaper said consumers who regularly face shortages of food and other items have staged a hunger strike and five-day rally for a very different kind of product — Japanese videocassette recorders.

The newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya called the recent protest in the Russian city of Yaroslavl a "video-uprising."

Some of the frustrated consumers launched a hunger strike in the town centre to demand a chance to buy Panasonic VCR's, the government daily said.

Traditionally, imported electronic goods have been quietly distributed only to the party and government elite or sold on the black market, where a VCR can fetch as much as 4,000 roubles (about \$6,400).

The days, under the Kremlin's economic reforms, factories that earn foreign currency are generally allowed to decide for themselves how to spend it, and frequently buy Western consumer goods for their workers.

Sovetskaya Rossiya said the disturbance began when word spread recently that imported VCR's for workers with foreign currency had been delivered to store in Yaroslavl, an industrial city about 200 kilometres north-east of Moscow.

Some 200 people immediately surrounded the store and sat through the night, demanding they be given the chance to buy the VCR's as well. Two other stores that also received shipments were similarly besieged, the newspaper said.

At dawn of the fourth day, the residents launched a protest on the central town square, it said. Eventually, city authorities persuaded the workers who were to receive the VCR's to share some of their spoils with the public, the newspaper said.

When the store at the centre of the turmoil did not immediately begin selling some of its 158 VCR's to all comers the next day, a group of citizens declared a hunger strike, Sovetskaya Rossiya said.

After five days of turmoil, a buyer walked out of the store with the first VCR, called the local television station and declared: "Victory. The Panasonic is in my hands," the newspaper

reported. Sovetskaya Rossiya said this was the first time in Yaroslavl history that videocassette recorders were sold freely to the public.

Residents of the central Russian city of Sverdlovsk took their frustration to the streets in similar unrest on Dec. 29, when a crowd upset by the shortage of vodka gathered downtown and halted city transport.

Communist Party officials soothed them and flooded the stores with vodka, and the crowd dispersed when people rushed off to buy their bottles, the newspaper Rabochaya Tribuna, or workers' tribune, reported.

The Sovetskaya Rossiya story did not specify which days the "video-uprising" took place, but indicated the disturbance had just ended.

Meanwhile, growth in Soviet labour productivity is running far short of official targets but the government has made inroads in cutting its crippling budget deficit, Pravda has said.

Citing preliminary figures from the State Committee on Statistics, the Communist Party daily said labour productivity grew by 2.5 per cent in 1989, far short of the 4.5 per cent official target.

It said one-fourth of all enterprises and trusts failed to meet production targets, at a cost of the economy of more than 10 billion roubles (\$16 billion).

But the newspaper said the budget deficit had been reduced to about 92 billion (\$150 billion) from 120 billion roubles (\$200 billion) at the start of 1989.

This compared to earlier predictions for the deficit by the end of 1989 of 95 billion roubles (\$155 billion).

"This was mainly due to measures adopted by the government to improve the economy. These helped increase income and cut expenditures by 22 billion roubles (\$36 billion)," Pravda said.

The newspaper warned there were signs of continued trouble for the Soviet economy. Growth in wages continued to outstrip growth in productivity.

In the past government has simply printed more money, pushing up wages and building inflationary pressures.

Israel blames foreign banks for holding up aid for Koor

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli treasury said Sunday that opposition by foreign creditor banks to a recovery plan for Koor Industries Ltd was holding up government aid to the industrial giant.

The treasury put off a meeting with Koor and bank officials scheduled for Sunday night because of uncertainty about a government proposal to save the trade union-owned concern

which is a billion dollars in debt.

"Aid to Koor will be effective only in the context of a comprehensive arrangement. The position of the foreign banks is still far from allowing this arrangement," the treasury said in a statement.

Foreign bank officials were not available for comment.

Koor, announcing it would have higher-than-forecast losses

for 1989, presented a revised five-year recovery plan in November including a write-off of \$125 million in debt by Israeli and foreign creditors.

The foreign banks, led by U.S.-based Bankers Trust and Manufacturers Hanover, rejected the plan and refused to take part in the write-off. Israeli banks said they opposed the write-off without a tougher recovery plan.

Koor, which employs more than 20,000 workers and accounts for over 10 per cent of Israel's industrial output, owes local banks more than two thirds of the billion-dollar debt.

Quoting what appeared to be treasury leaks, Israeli newspapers reported Sunday the government would give Koor \$50 million in aid promised last year and another \$50 million in return for

equity. The newspapers said Hevrat Haovdim, Koor's parent company, would in return hand over its shares of the national airline El Al, Zim shipping company, and national water authority Mekorot.

The Histadrut trade union federation has said it is ready to yield part-ownership of Koor in return for government funds.

In its statement, the treasury said it had yet to decide its policy towards Koor. It said it was examining offers by foreign investors interested in Koor firms but did not elaborate.

Tension weakens Lebanese lira

BEIRUT (R) — A power struggle between two rival administrations in Lebanon is harming the international value of the country's currency, already weakened

by a chronic economic crisis. The central bank posted the lira Monday at 530 to the dollar compared to last Friday's close of 540, a loss of 20 points.

"The main reason behind the lessening value of the lira is the collapsing economy which resulted from 14 years of civil war but the latest political and military tension is acting as a catalyst," said economic expert Fouad Chbaqlo.

"What makes the situation even worse is the lack of faith in Lebanon's economy... people have no hope that a solution to the country's chronic problems is near... the lira will lose even more value in the coming days," he said.

The value of the lira rose to 413 to the dollar after a ceasefire last September ended months of fierce fighting.

But the currency began losing value again as Lebanon's two rival cabinets — one led by Aoun

in east Beirut and the other headed by President Elias Hrawi in west Beirut — struggled for power.

The government has not been able to collect most taxes since civil war erupted in 1975. Part of the economic infrastructure has been destroyed and economic activity completely stopped during last year's six months of fighting.

Central bank sources said money borrowed by the government from the public sector to cover its expenditure has reached some 1,000 billion Lebanese liras (about \$1.78 billion) — more than one third the value of Lebanon's gold and foreign reserves. Lebanon has 9.2 million ounces of gold and \$1,180 million of foreign reserves.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, January 8, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	112.6	113.7
U.S. dollar	649.0	655.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	448.7	453.2
Pound Sterling	1063.4	1070.0	Dutch guilder	340.1	343.5
Deutschemark	384.2	388.0	Swedish crown	105.0	106.1
Swiss franc	420.9	425.1	Italian lira (for 100)	51.8	52.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	184.1	185.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.6450/60	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1600/10	Deutschemark
	1.6823/30	Dutch guilder
	1.8995/9005	Swiss franc
	1.5335/45	Belgian franc
	35.37/42	French franc
	5.7400/50	Italian lire
	1257/1258	Japanese yen
	144.50/60	Swedish crown
	6.1590/1640	Norwegian crown
	6.5425/75	Danish crown
	6.5410/60	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	403.60/404.10	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed weaker after last week's Wall Street-inspired rally ran out of steam. Profit-taking and lower closes in offshore markets on Friday dampened sentiment. The All Ordinaries Index fell 11.1 to 1,699.8.

TOKYO — A last-minute index shopping spree by investment trust funds sent share prices narrowly higher at the close after lingering in mixed trading for most of the afternoon. The Nikkei Index rose 20.20 to 38,294.96.

HONG KONG — A shortage of buyers pushed blue chips down, with most investors sidelined awaiting clearer signs on the political front. The Hang Seng Index fell 23.70 to 2,816.24.

SINGAPORE — The revamped Straits Times Industrial Index rebounded from a slight setback on Friday and gained 15.95 to a record 1,547.42.

BOMBAY — Dividend payments brought cash to the market and share prices withstood profit-taking by state-owned investment trusts. The Bombay Index gained 3.75 to 778.33.

FRANKFURT — Foreign orders poured into the German stock market boosting the DAX index 23.24 points to 1,843.23.

ZURICH — High Swiss interest rates kept investors on the sidelines. The SPI index fell 1.8 points to 1,149.4.

PARIS — Shares prices fell after weekend adjustments in the European Monetary System indicated that French interest rates stay remain high to defend the franc.

LONDON — Investors were worried by Friday's fall on Wall Street and by a possible rise in West German interest rates, which could put pressure on sterling. At 1603 GMT the FTSE index was down 10.9 points to 2,433.6.

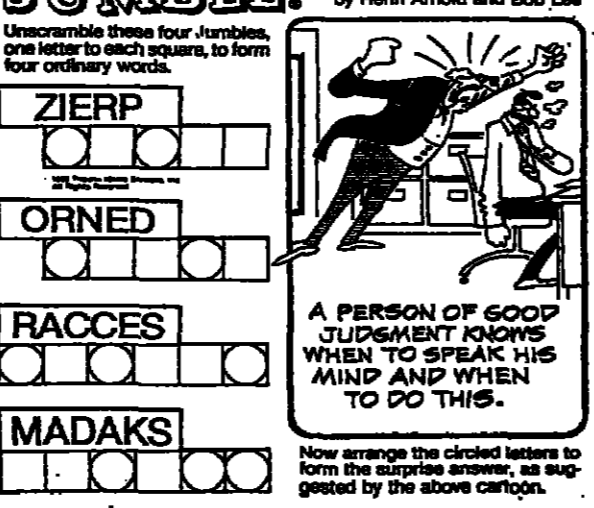
NEW YORK — A prime rate cut by the three major banks reversed initial losses. At 1602 GMT the Dow Jones Industrials were 1.07 lower at 2,772.18.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"No time to cook tonight, so I tossed a chicken in a blender then nuked it for five minutes."

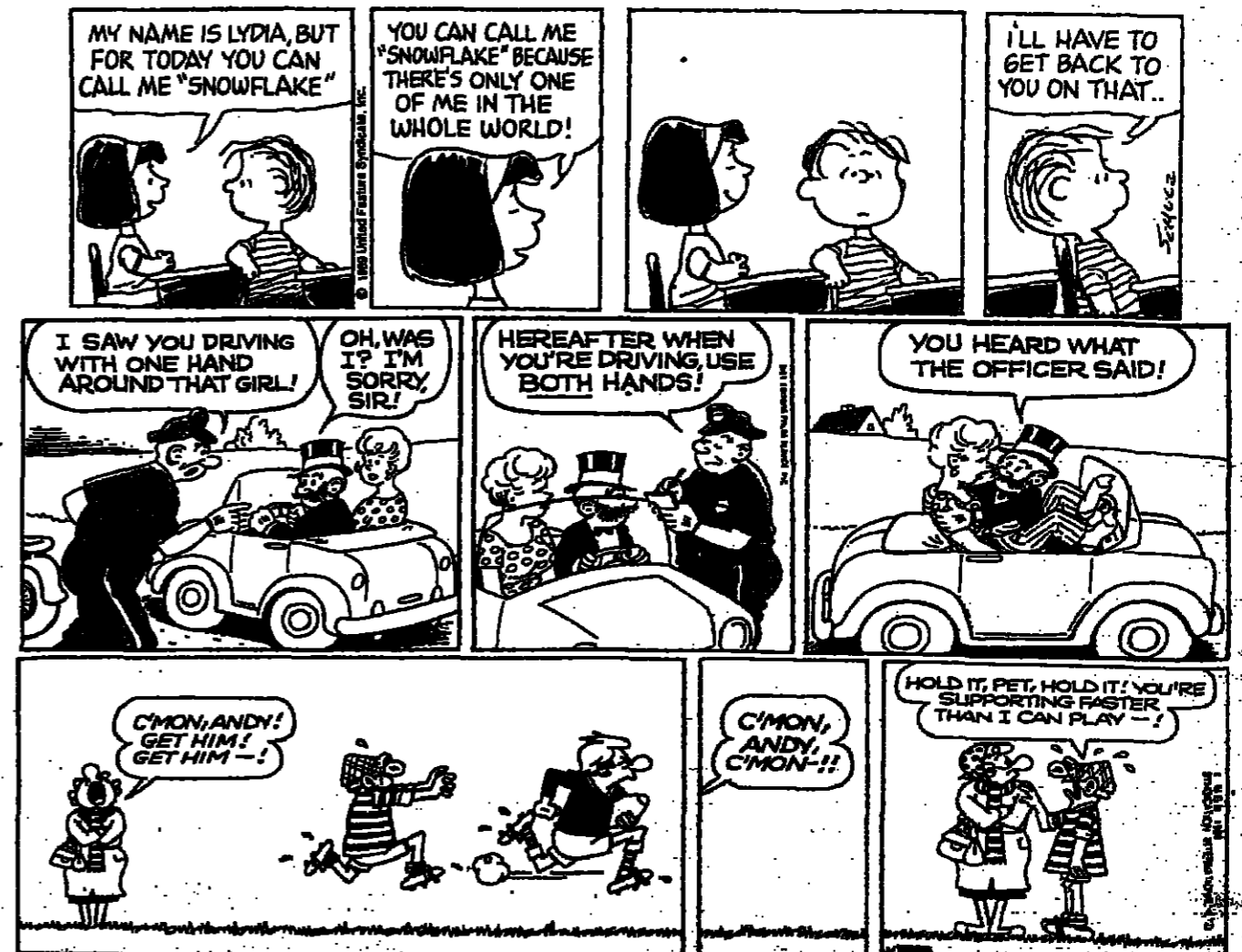
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



Masur defeats Sanchez

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australia's Wally Masur beat Javier Sanchez of Spain Monday in the \$400,000 New South Wales Open tennis championships to earn a possible second-round match with Boris Becker.

Masur beat Sanchez 7-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-1) in a first-round match that was stopped for more than four hours by rain at the white city courts. Organizers were forced to postpone several opening-round matches until Tuesday.

When play was abandoned late Monday, France's Yannick Noah, the eighth seed, led Ronald Agnir of Haiti 6-4, 2-1 in another first-round match.

Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, runner-up last year to American Aaron Krickstein, scored a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 first-round win over Czech Peter Korda.

Such is the strength of the field that Cherkasov, ranked 76 in the world, this year was forced to qualify for the main draw.

Masur, ranked 37 in the world, won down Sanchez after play had been halted at 3-3 in the third set, causing a likely confrontation with reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Becker.

The West German, seeded second here behind world number one Ivan Lendl, plays his first match Tuesday against another Soviet, Alexander Volkov.

Lendl also makes his first appearance Tuesday against Canadian Andrew Szabo in another opening-round match.

In the only other first-round men's match completed Monday, France's Guy Forget beat Mark Koozevans of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-3.

In the women's section, ninth-seeded Gigi Fernandez, 10th-seeded Barbara Paulus of Austria and Americans Terry Phelps, Elise Burgin, Ann Grossman and Cammy MacGregor all notched first-round wins.

Pele predicts top-quality 1990 World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's ex-soccer great Pele predicted this year's World Cup in Italy would be marked by top-quality play and pointed to six favourites, in a newspaper interview published Sunday.

Pele told the Rio daily Jornal Do Brasil that the tournament, which gets under way in June, would be special because a large number of the world's top stars — including many from powerhouses Brazil, Holland and Germany — play for Italian teams during the regular season.

"The main attractions are well known to the Italian fans. The stars will be battling to affirm their level of play, on the same stage but wearing another shirt," Pele said.

He said the participation of standouts such as Cerezo of Brazil, Maradona of Argentina, and Gullit of Holland would ensure a "beautiful tournament."

"The stars will try, with all their talent, to lead their team to the title," Pele said.

Pele pointed to Brazil, Italy, Argentina, Holland, Germany and the Soviet Union as pre-tournament favourites.

"Brazil has a very high quality team with players experienced in European soccer. They know a good performance in Italy will guarantee new contracts," he said.

He said Brazil would have to utilize its speed and play aggressively.

"It's important to use speed to attack and to have midfielders that move to the front... If we're able to do that, we'll dispute the title," Pele said.

Pele, who led Brazil to the world championship in 1958, 1962 and 1970, is now an adviser to the national team.

He said defending champion Argentina had not been playing well in its exhibition games but, "if Maradona recovers from his injuries, they'll be strong again," Pele said.

Pele said the Soviet Union, which will compete along with Argentina in Group B during opening round play, is also a top contender.

Napoli under fire for lacklustre play

Reuters

ITALIAN first division leaders Napoli were met with a torrent of criticism for lacklustre play after beating lowly Ascoli 1-0 only a week after their first league defeat of the season.

The fans were the first to react. For the first time they booed and whistled the team on Sunday on their home ground.

Skipper Diego Maradona, who himself set up the 72nd minute goal headed in by Andrea Carnevale, heard the racket only too clearly.

"The fans have the right to whistle. We players can't do anything about it," said the stocky Argentine World Cup captain.

Anyway, this match was awful — the worst of the season. It was just a problem of concentration," he admitted.

Despite the poor performance, which trainer Alberto Bigon put down to the team trying too hard to atone for last week's away defeat to Lazio, Napoli stayed top with 27 points.

In contrast, there was only praise in Italy's sports papers for title contenders and world club champions AC Milan, who blitzed three goals past Cesena.

The Gazzetta Dello sport hailed the 3-0 hammering as "an excellent show — rhythm, concentration and speed."

Goals from Italian international Roberto Donadoni, defender Mauro Tassotti and European footballer of the year Marco van Basten took Milan's points over the last seven league games to 13.

The top placings were virtually unchanged, with Milan still fifth and Napoli two points clear of Internazionale who maintained their second place thanks to a fine 1-0 win against Cremonese.

Midway through the Spanish season, it was all smiles at Real Madrid after they beat neighbours and bitter rivals Atletico Madrid 3-1 on Sunday.

Grumbling and recent disputes between club president Ramon Mendoza, Welsh coach John Toshack and the team have evaporated.

"We have scored 55 goals, we top the standings with a six-point lead. What else can we ask for?" said Mendoza.

"I am delighted with the team as it was on wheels," Mendoza also said he would keep Rafael Martin Vasquez, whose contract expires at the end of the season, and who scored two of Real's three goals.

"I'll make him an offer that no other Spanish team can outbid," he said.

Atletico president Jesus Gil, who had waged a war of words with Mendoza before the game, said: "I am very disappointed and disillusioned. I thought they were going to score six or seven. Maybe we are selling more vision than we can give..."

Barcelona had to wait until the last minute to beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1 and stay in the battle for the league title — but they are still third and six points behind Real.

Relief was the main reaction from Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson after the English first division side, who have not won since mid-November, put Nottingham Forest out of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup on Sunday.

"Those last 15 minutes are when you age," said Ferguson after the third-round tie which United won by the single goal, a header from striker Mark Robins in the 55th minute.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARAF
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JUST ONE PRECAUTION

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 10 5
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A

EAST
♠ 9 6 3
♥ Q 10
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ 8 7 2

WEST
♠ A Q 7 4 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ K 4
♣ 6 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q J 10 9 3
♣ 8 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
4 NT 5 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠. While the chances of any finesse succeeding are even money, that does not mean that all finesses are equal. Consider South's dilemma at six clubs after the lead of the ace of spades. Which is the right red suit to finesse?

Once North could bid freely at the two-level, South decided, perhaps impulsively, to commit the hand to clubs. He wisely chose to play in clubs rather than hearts to protect his diamond tenace from at-

lack on opening lead. West led the ace of spades and made the obvious shift to a trump. Declarer came to hand with the king of hearts and drew the outstanding trumps in two rounds. Which red suit should he tackle, and when?

Since West is likely to have the king of diamonds for her overall, declarer should forget about that finesse. And there's no hurry to take the heart trick. First, South should play off three more rounds of trumps to see what the defenders discard. On the first two, West has no problem—two spades can be spared. The third discard is another matter. West can't let go of a spade without setting up two additional spade tricks in dummy, and a heart makes it easy for declarer to guess the heart position. Therefore, West should, without visibly suffering an anxiety attack, shuffle a diamond, holding onto her two remaining hearts. Meanwhile, dummy has come down to three hearts and the king-king of spades.

A careless declarer might now have tried the heart finesse and gone down. But having done so well to this point, declarer was not going to falter at the final hurdle. South first cashed the ace of diamonds and, when the king came tumbling down, he claimed the rest of the tricks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 9, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Any problems that come to you today or tonight will undoubtedly be from the past. Forget any mistakes made and concentrate instead upon what you can do to improve the future.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) See friends who have been away for a while but are back in your circle again now. Romance should be going along very smoothly for you today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a couple of friends to a good restaurant for some social pleasure and you will produce a closeness with them that will last over years.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A new source of income can become yours at this time by an unusual idea. Avoid inviting unwelcome guests into your home to avoid trouble.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Hold back from spending any considerable amount of money on pleasure. Don't premeditate on your vacation plans with haste.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Younger couples will be your best mode of social expression now. Try to get out in the world of activity more with your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A good day for any changes you want to make at your residence. Your money affairs will now improve if you listen to a wise counselor.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do all the things with your

attachment that you have delayed doing. Not a good time to argue with your family on their over outside contacts.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep your family on their toes by inviting various guests there at your home. Tactfully keep your mate from going over budget today.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't allow your emotional impulses to get you out of touch with your attachment. You will need to be selective of the friend you see.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Doing small courtesies for loved ones brings great results. Your friends will have helpful ideas for your future business progress.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Taking your attachment to meet outside associates would be a good idea now. Younger persons will now bring you pleasure in your home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't try to put all your creative ideas into your business so quickly. Your happy can help you very much in projects so let them.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be very capable at whatever is modern and up to the minute so slant their education along New Age lines that provide a good grounding in History and Political Science. Travel to and living in different countries will be part of this person's everyday life.

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Jordanian students desirous of pursuing studies in India on a self-financing basis in under-graduate courses in engineering, medicine and pharmacy as well as diploma courses in engineering during the academic year 1990-91 are advised to contact the Indian Embassy, First Circle, Jabal Amman, from Jan. 9 - Feb. 21, 1990 between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with attested statements of marks. Only those with aggregate marks of 80% and above in their Tawjihi examination & well-convertant in English language will be considered for admission.

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REQUIRED

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A regional organisation, based in Amman, requires an executive secretary. Experience is necessary, five years with a reputable firm. Age below 35. Languages: Fluent in Arabic, English and preferably French. Good salary with fringe benefits. Applications with C.V. and a recent photo to be addressed to: P.O. Box 930039 Amman

Deadline: 10 days from today.

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Invites applications for the following positions for August 1990

In clarification of the Amman Baccalaureate School advertisement on January 3, 1990, the school invites applications for the following positions for August 1990.

Senior School (Grades 6-12) teachers of:

— Geography in English, for IGCE and IB
— Economics in English — to introduce the subject for IGCE and IB.

Scholarship for Arabic teacher

The school is offering a scholarship for two years funded postgraduate study in Britain within the area of Arabic language and literature or Islamic studies. The successful applicant will be required to undertake limited teaching to 'A' level in English, and to teach for 2 years full time at ABS on return.

Application forms may be collected from the school, and should be returned by Thursday January 11, 1990.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitman

ACROSS

- False god
- Song of Joy
- Slave
- Christians
- Suppose
- Military
- Acronym
- Symbol of hospitality
- Party
- Journey stops
- Tantalized
- Obese
- Geol.
- Misc. prof.
- Slack
- Friendly visits at sea
- Fr. vineyard
- Shelter
- Shocked
- Always
- Fondle/Voigt
- Transmitted
- As —
- Go
- Feed the tit
- 5 flat and C
- Time

DOWN

- Apprentice
- On the billy
- Associate
- Democrat
- comp.
- Heavily bodied
- Mime
- 7 Edges
- "Get — Not"
- Tin Roof
- Collegiate
- Young
- expedition
- Racer's data
- Escaped
- Eggs
- rubbed out
- Swampy
- Armed
- 27 Sp. hero
- 29 words to
- Brutus
- Swamp
- Finch bath
- Legal action
- Dismissed to
- 34 Solved
- Former mates
- Old Italian
- 42 in union
- Card game
- Alcohol
- 53 Unit of work
- 54 Tabletop
- 55 Picnic item
- 56 Lease
- 57 Fifth
- 58 Mah Jongg place
- 59 Traditional knowledge
- 60 Mo. Samson
- 61 Transvection
- 64 Sp. gold

Saturday's Puzzle Subject

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RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

LICENCE TO KILL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

CONCORD

Tel: 677420

Rob Lowe... in OXFORD BLUES

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

NIJOUN

Tel: 675571

Rock Morans... in Honey, I Shrunk The Kids

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30. Fridays and Saturdays extra shows at 11:00 a.m.

PLAZA

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SUMMER SCHOOL

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Rebels besiege second largest Cambodian city

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas were besieging Cambodia's second largest city Monday, but Thai military officers and Western diplomats said they did not expect Battambang to fall.

"I think this attack on Battambang is more of a psychological nature, to send shock waves through Phnom Penh and make them want to talk," a Western military analyst said.

The Khmer Rouge said they attacked Battambang last Friday, coinciding with the 11th anniversary of the installation of the present Cambodian government by Vietnamese forces. But Cambodian President Heng Samrin in a National Day speech Saturday did not refer to it.

Samrin in his speech, monitored in Bangkok Monday, said Cambodia must "bravely confront" the threat of a return to power of the Khmer Rouge, overthrown by Vietnamese troops in December, 1978. The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of their countrymen when they controlled the country, Western governments say.

Samrin said that following the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops last September "our struggle in the coming dry season will be full of most of difficult tests and trials."

A Western diplomat said he could not independently confirm Khmer Rouge claims they had laid siege to Battambang, a key city of 200,000 people, 230 kilometres north west of Phnom Penh, but added: "I tend to believe it."

He said it was not the Khmer Rouge style to take large fixed positions and he doubted that the

Communist guerrillas would try to overrun the heavily defended city as they could suffer heavy casualties.

A Khmer Rouge source said he did not expect the guerrillas to attempt to overrun the city. He said their aim appeared to be to "put pressure on them (Phnom Penh leaders) and cut their supply lines."

A senior Thai military officer at the border said the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the three guerrilla groups that make up the United Nations-recognised Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, began laying siege on Battambang after setting its main market on fire with artillery fire last Friday.

He said the guerrillas, using tanks and artillery seized from government troops, had cut key roads linking Battambang to Phnom Penh.

"Battambang town burns brightly," Khmer Rouge radio reported Saturday.

The Thai officer said the Khmer Rouge also rained mortar and artillery fire on Battambang Sunday night but eased the shelling Monday and appeared to be consolidating their positions around the city.

Asked why the Khmer Rouge were laying siege of Battambang if they did not intend to overrun it, a Western diplomat said this was probably "to show they are very much a force to be reckoned with."

On Monday Khmer Rouge radio dismissed as "rubbish" a recent statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze calling for a political settlement of the Cambodian problem and a halt to military aid to warring Cambodians.

It said Moscow in late 1969 sent shipments of arms and ammunition to Cambodia and opened a consulate at Kompong Som airport to boost the shipments of war equipment.

Cambodia's defence minister was admitted anti-government guerrillas are advancing in areas near the Thai border, and said his forces are concentrating defences in major towns and roads.

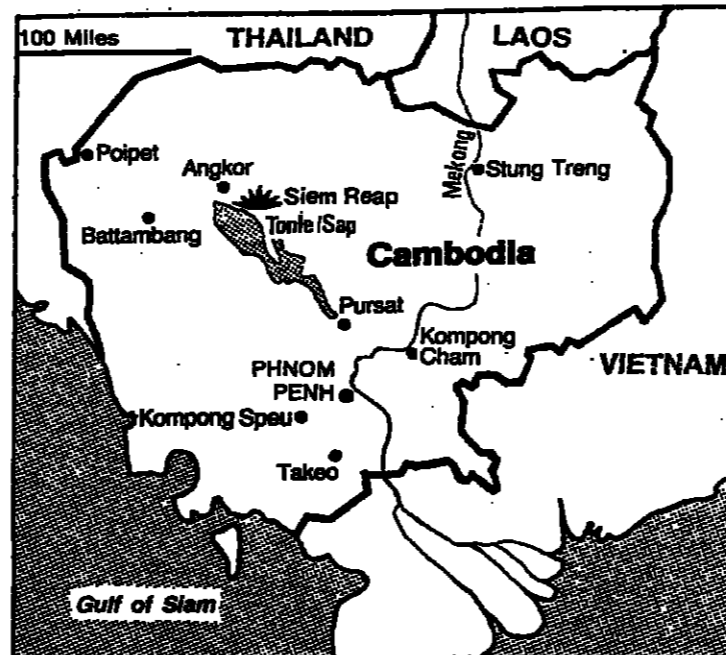
"The enemies have been gradually advancing in their attacks against a number of our positions along the border. To be sincere, we have lost some positions," Gen. Tea Banh said in an interview carried Sunday.

It was broadcast by the official radio of the Phnom Penh government. A transcript sent Monday in Bangkok did not say when the interview took place.

"Generally speaking, we are still victorious," the general said.

"We cannot stay in every village. We have to abandon some and keep some strategic ones. This is in order to concentrate our forces so that they are strong and have sufficient strength in opposing the enemies in battles," he said.

Tea Banh said most areas the guerrillas have seized are along the border with Thailand, where the guerrillas maintain sanctuaries on Thai soil while government forces must travel hundreds of kilometres to reach this front, he said.



He conceded that the captured areas included Banteay Chmar, Kdol and Anlong Veng. The Khmer Rouge said they seized Anlong Veng on Dec. 20, toppling a base that had protected the government defence network along the Dang Reik Mountains along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Tea Banh said authorities were building trenches and had organised village militiamen into medium-size forces to help regular troops.

He said the government still managed to defend the capital of Banteay Meanchey province in the north west, as well as important district and roads. He denied guerrilla claims to control Route 5, a main highway crossing the length of the country to Phnom Penh.

The general said the guerrillas were trying to capture Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap and Battambang provinces as bases to overthrow the government.

"I can firmly say that the ene-

mies have no capability of toppling us," he said. It remains a guerrilla war of sabotage and retreat with no large-scale offensives involved, he said.

"The main thing for us now is to defend at all costs towns, major communications networks and a number of passes," the general said.

Non-Communist guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in a statement that by denying the Khmer Rouge an equal role in the peace process, the Vietnamese-installed government of Premier Hun Sen was forcing it "to continue fighting indefinitely."

"And if one day the Khmer Rouge were to win the war in Cambodia and return to power, responsibility would rest without any doubt with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Hun Sen regime and their Western supporters," he said.

A copy of Sihanouk's statement, issued on Jan. 3 in Peking, was seen in Bangkok Monday.

Romanian tribunal begins trial of security agents

BUCHAREST (AP) — The first of the captured security agents loyal to ousted President Nicolae Ceausescu went before military tribunals Monday, accused of resisting a popular revolt.

The first tribunal opened in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, ruled until Dec. 22 by Ceausescu's son Nicolae, where "a group of terrorists who fought against the people in the army" faced a military court, said the ruling National Salvation Front.

Front spokesman Aurel Dragnea told reporters he did not know how many defendants would face trial and gave no details of the charges they face in Sibiu or other centres of heavy fighting, such as Bucharest and Timisoara.

The accused have no right of appeal, he said, but journalists will have access to the tribunals.

The front, which has been governing since Ceausescu was ousted Dec. 22 organised the secret military tribunal that ordered the president and his wife, Elena, executed on Christmas Day.

Since then, the front has abolished the death sentence, meaning that the captured members of crack security units who battled the army after Ceausescu was ousted face a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Munteanu said those still under investigation include Nicu Ceausescu and Gen. Iulian Vlad, the former head of Ceausescu's once-powerful Securitate, which has been ordered disbanded by Romania's new leaders.

Asked about weekend statements from President Ion Iliescu and Vice-President Dumitru Mazilu that elections scheduled for April could be postponed, Munteanu said he knew of no such postponement as yet.

The half-dozen political parties formed since Ceausescu's execution have charged that the National Salvation Front would have an unfair advantage in any early poll because of its control of state television and government.

Some political groups have accused the television of boycotting their gatherings while giving ample coverage to Iliescu's National Salvation Front. Romanian television cameras did not follow

demonstrations by two parties and students in Bucharest Sunday.

Munteanu countered these complaints by stressing he believed in a free media and noting that representatives of the Peasant Party and Liberal Party appeared on television Sunday night to present their group's programmes.

"After these parties had registered, they were given access to television," he said.

About 300 supporters of the Peasant and Christian Democratic Parties led a Sunday march through Bucharest for those who fell in the uprising against Ceausescu's 24-year rule.

As they marched and prayed in the bitter cold, the marchers were joined by thousands of others who paced along the ice-covered sidewalks in a solemn procession.

About 2,500 students met for a separate rally at the capital's polytechnical institute, demanding reform of Ceausescu's heavily indoctrinated education system.

During Ceausescu's reign, political subjects, extolling the virtues of "scientific socialism" were compulsory for all students.

Nicolae Costel, a Christian Democratic Party official, said thousands more students had gathered in other cities, including Timisoara, the cradle of the revolution, 500 kilometres north west of Bucharest.

The Peasant Party was a power in parliament before the Communists abolished it in 1947, and both it and the Christian Democrats have been traditionally anti-Communist.

Since their renaissance, the two parties have joined forces in preparation for the promised April elections and have warned against a Communist resurgence.

They see the National Salvation Front, which includes several former Communists in its leadership, as a de facto front for Communism.

"They are calling for a Communist Party," said Constantin Dimitrescu, 53, referring to tentative calls by some Communists to reform as a Democratic Socialist Party. "We say to that — the wolf has changed its fur but not its morals."

Philippine army orders to report coup recruiters

MANILA (Agencies) — The Philippine army chief Monday warned troops they faced prosecution if they failed to report efforts to recruit them for any future coup attempt. Rebel soldiers threatened to strike again.

In a directive to the 65,000-strong Philippine army, Major-General Manuel Cacerando said neutrality could not be tolerated and ordered any soldier with information about another mutiny to report it to a superior officer.

He said some troops knew about the December revolt against President Corason Aquino in advance but "kept that relevant information about the planned rebellion to themselves thinking, perhaps, that it would be better to remain silent and neutral on the matter."

He said it was the duty of every soldier to report such information and that those failing to do so would be charged with being an accessory, even if they did not take part.

Asked about rumours of another coup attempt, Aquino told a news conference the government was "taking all necessary measures in order to protect the citizenry and to make sure that the military continues to stay loyal to our constitution and to the government." She did not elaborate.

Fugitive coup leader ex-Colonel Gregorio Honasan warned in a letter published in a Manila newspaper Monday of another

military revolt soon, calling Aquino's New Year's Eve cabinet reshuffle "a dance of thieves."

Television stations joined 12 of the country's biggest newspapers in broadcasting editorials Monday rejecting army attempts to grab power.

Jose Galang, acting editor of the Manila Chronicle, said a citizens' group led by former President Diosdado Macapagal met with publishers and editors last weekend and asked them to join in a campaign to preserve Philippine democracy.

"There was an agreement... to address a common issue, which is the need for democracy and peace to counter fears among the people of a return to fascism," Galang said in an interview.

More than 100 people were killed and hundreds wounded in the Dec. 1-7 insurrection that army rebels said they staged to protest against government corruption, inefficiency and Aquino's lack of direction.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer said "military adventurism" had plunged the nation into fear and added: "How long will we tolerate this situation where a military maniac with an itchy trigger finger has his bloody hands on the throat of an entire nation?"

Meanwhile suspected Communist rebels bombed a coconut mill owned by opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile over the weekend, the military reported Monday.

9 die in S. African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nine people were killed in fighting between rival black activist organisations in South Africa's Natal province at the weekend, police said Monday.

Three of the fatalities came during clashes between two groups of people near Fatseni village Sunday. Police fired shotguns and rifles to stop the fight and a fourth man was killed, police said without elaborating.

Five people, including a woman shot by a group of men who set fire to her house, were killed in separate incidents.

Police rarely identify the political affiliation of people involved in the Natal clashes, in which more than 2,000 people have been killed in almost three years of unrest.

The fighting is between In-

dena, a powerful political movement supported by traditional Zulus and favoured by big business, and the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF), which

is denounced by the government as a Communist organisation. Both groups want to end apartheid but differ on tactics. Inkatha favours a change from within the structures created by Pretoria, a strategy the UDF rejects. They both acknowledge that the violent rivalry harms the black cause in South Africa.

Meanwhile teachers and parents in Soweto, South Africa's biggest black township, began a campaign Monday to re-enroll children in defiance of government rules.

The government bars readmittance of pupils who have failed matriculation twice and those deemed "dropouts" by authorities.

Parents and teachers in Johannesburg's Soweto township also demanded some matriculation examination papers be re-marked, saying the poor results were caused mainly by underfunding and overcrowding in black schools.

Salvador probe uncovers army role in killing 6 Jesuit priests

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — An official investigation has uncovered military involvement in the November massacre of six Roman Catholic priests suspected of sympathising with rebels, President Alfredo Cristiani said.

"It has been determined there was involvement of some elements of the armed forces" in the slayings, Cristiani said Sunday night over radio and television.

In addition to the priests, who were educators at a Jesuit-run university in San Salvador, the assassins killed the clergyman's housekeeper and her 15-year-old daughter five days after leftist rebels began the largest offensive of their 10-year insurgency.

Cristiani did not specify who was implicated, nor did he indicate the units, rank or number of those responsible.

However, the head of the joint chiefs of staff said earlier Sunday night that members of an elite battalion had been confined to base and were being questioned in connection with the slayings.

No military officer has been convicted of a politically motivated slaying since civil war erupted in late 1979, though the army has been linked to right-wing death squads blamed for the

murders of thousands of suspected leftists in the early 1980s.

U.S. authorities have indicated that continued bipartisan support for the rightist Cristiani government depends to a great extent on finding out who killed the priests and punishing them.

Cristiani said a "special commission of honour," including high-ranking military men and civilian lawyers, had been created to expose the truth about the Nov. 16 massacre "in its complete magnitude."

The president said the commission would work with investigators to "make sure justice is done" and promised punishment "down to the last person implicated."

Cristiani has also offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to the murderers' arrest and conviction.

The slayings of the six priests prompted some U.S. legislators to question aid to the Cristiani administration, which took office in June, succeeding the centrist government of Jose Napoleon Duarte.

The massacre also recalled the March 1980 assassination of Oscar Arnulfo Romero,

Archbishop of San Salvador, who was killed by a sniper as he said mass. Despite available evidence and testimony, the Salvadoran judicial system has failed to bring Romero's killer to justice.

Cristiani asked the Salvadoran people to avoid speculation while investigators carry out their work. Agents from the United States and Spain have aided in the probe and Scotland Yard detectives arrived this past weekend to take part.

The head of the joint chiefs of staff, Col. Rene Emilio Ponce, said Sunday that 47 soldiers from the elite Atlacatl Battalion, including two officers, had been confined to base for questioning in the case but were not under arrest.

It was unclear whether those soldiers and officers were the ones referred to by Cristiani.

Ponce said the 47 were members of the unit that conducted a search of the Jesuit priests' residence at the order's Central American University two days before the priests were slain.

Asked if the men were implicated by evidence other than the fact that they conducted the search, Ponce declined to comment.

Noriega lawyers reject plea bargain

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Lawyers for Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega are rejecting the idea of a plea bargain, saying they will go to trial if they fail to have all drug charges dismissed.

"The government chose to bring General Noriega to trial and they shall have their trial," Frank Rubino, one of several lawyers defending the former Panamanian ruler against U.S. indictments, said Sunday.

Another lawyer, Steve Kollin, said prosecutors had not offered a plea bargain, nor had he sought such an agreement.

"General Noriega is innocent of these charges," Kollin said. "Plea bargaining takes place when somebody is guilty, in my opinion."

Plea bargains usually result in a guilty plea to lesser charges in exchange for information the government can use in other cases. Such action would prevent a trial and release of documents sensitive to national security or embarrassing to the government that Noriega's lawyers might want for the defence.

President George Bush last week did not rule plea bargaining out as an option, saying it would be Noriega's right as a defendant in the U.S. justice system.

The Baltimore Sun reported Monday that the U.S. government has made an offer to a co-defendant of Noriega as it seeks to bolster its case against the former Panamanian strongman.

The U.S. attorney's office has made a "very preliminary" offer to Lt.-Col. Luis Del Cid, a for-

mer key Panamanian Defence Forces official who surrendered to U.S. authorities before Noriega sought sanctuary in the Vatican nuncio. Specifics of the offer were not reported.

Del Cid is accused of acting as liaison, courier and emissary for Noriega in his transactions with drug dealers.

Rubino said the defence had been concentrating on getting the case against Noriega dismissed and had not begun looking for evidence to clear Noriega in a trial.

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said the administration was not worried about documents that could embarrass the White House and wouldn't try to block them.

He said, however, he didn't know if any documents existed relevant to the case that might harm national security.

"As far as I know there aren't any," Scowcroft said. "You had the attorney general saying he didn't anticipate any problems of that character. I don't know whether the files have been searched to the ultimate."

He emphasised that the case against Noriega was based on drug trafficking.

"That's a fairly narrow part of his whole relationship with the United States," Scowcroft said. Meanwhile fugitive members of Noriega's defeated defence forces are still a nagging concern for U.S. officials nearly three weeks after the American invasion of Panama.

Lieutenant General Carl Stiner said the top priority for U.S. troops in Panama was to find the fugitives, and destroy the leadership and infrastructure of any dissident groups.

COLUMN

Who takes the garbage out?

WELLESLEY, Massachusetts (AP) — This affluent suburb of Boston is getting particular about who takes the garbage out. If the maid or butler is not this live-in kind and turns up at the community's state-of-the-art recycling and disposal facility with their employers' refuse, they will be turned away at the gate. Department of Public Works Director Pat Berdan said. "If the maid lives in the house, she can bring in rubbish. But if it's a hired worker that comes there, no, she can't," Berdan said. Though not in any financial difficulties, Wellesley still counts its pennies. The Public Works Department is cracking down on commercial dumpers who try to evade the \$80-per-ton dumping fee.

Neil Diamond to be honoured

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond will be honoured during the American Music Awards presentations with a special award of merit for his contributions to music. Steve Wonder, the 1982 Award of Merit winner will present the trophy to Diamond during the televised awards shows on Jan. 22 from the Shrine Auditorium. Past recipients include Bing Crosby, Irving Berlin and Elvis Presley. "Beginning in the 1960s, he has written, recorded and performed his very special songs about love, loneliness, good times and patriotic feelings about America," reads the inscription on the trophy.

Queen Elizabeth to lend art treasures to Moscow

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth has agreed in principle to allow art treasures from her private collection to go on show to the Soviet Union for the first time, Buckingham Palace said Sunday. The Sunday Times newspaper said two Fabergé Easter eggs, which once belonged to the queen's relative Tsar Nicholas II, shot dead by the Bolsheviks in 1918, would be shown in Moscow later this month. The eggs, encrusted with gold, silver, diamonds and precious stones, carry portraits of the Tsar's five children, who were killed with their father and Mother Alexandra by the Cheka political police at Ekaterinburg in the Urals. Produced by Goldsmith Peter Carl Fabergé, the eggs were later bought by King George V, the queen's grandfather, and his wife Queen Mary. The Sunday Times said the eggs, now on display in San Diego, California, would be flown to Moscow later this month for an exhibition in the Kremlin's Armoury Museum.

Freed prisoner prefers jail

PRAGUE (R) — A Czechoslovak prisoner released under this week's presidential amnesty walked into his local police station and demanded to be put back in jail, the trade union daily Prace has said. The man identified only as Martin J., aged 25, told police in Hradec Králové in Eastern Bohemia that he didn't want amnesty and threatened to "do something bad" if he was not returned immediately to prison, the paper said in an article entitled, "I want to go back to jail." Police took him to a psychiatric clinic after he refused offers of help from the social services. More than 20,000 prisoners were due to be released under amnesty, announced last Monday by Czechoslovakia's new non-Communist President Vaclav Havel.

Global weather (major world cities)

	TEMP.	WIND.	MOON.	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	04	39	08	46 Rain
ATHENS	03	37	10	30 Clear
BAHRAIN	16	61	22	72 Clear
BANGKOK	23	73	30	81 Clear
Buenos Aires	21	69	28	62 Rain
Cairo	08	46	18	64 Clear
CHICAGO	-02	28	05	42 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	02	36	03	37 Rain
Frankfurt	-02	28	01	34 Cloudy
Geneva	-05	23	07	37 Cloudy
HONG KONG	17	63	19	68 Clear
ISTANBUL	00	32	05	41 Cloudy
London	07	46	11	62 Clear
Los Angeles	10	51	20	68 Clear
MADRID	03	37	11	62 Clear
MEXICO	21	70	31	68 Cloudy
MONTREAL	07	44	35	60 Snow
MOSCOW	-04	21	04	22 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	08	47	21	70 Clear
NEW YORK	01	35	06	45 Cloudy
PARIS	X	X	X	X
ROME	01	34	06	43 Rain
Sydney	15	58	21	63 Rain
TOKYO	02	36	10	50 Clear
VIENNA	-01	27	05	21 Clear
WARSAW	-05	23	01	34 Cloudy

X - Information missing information.